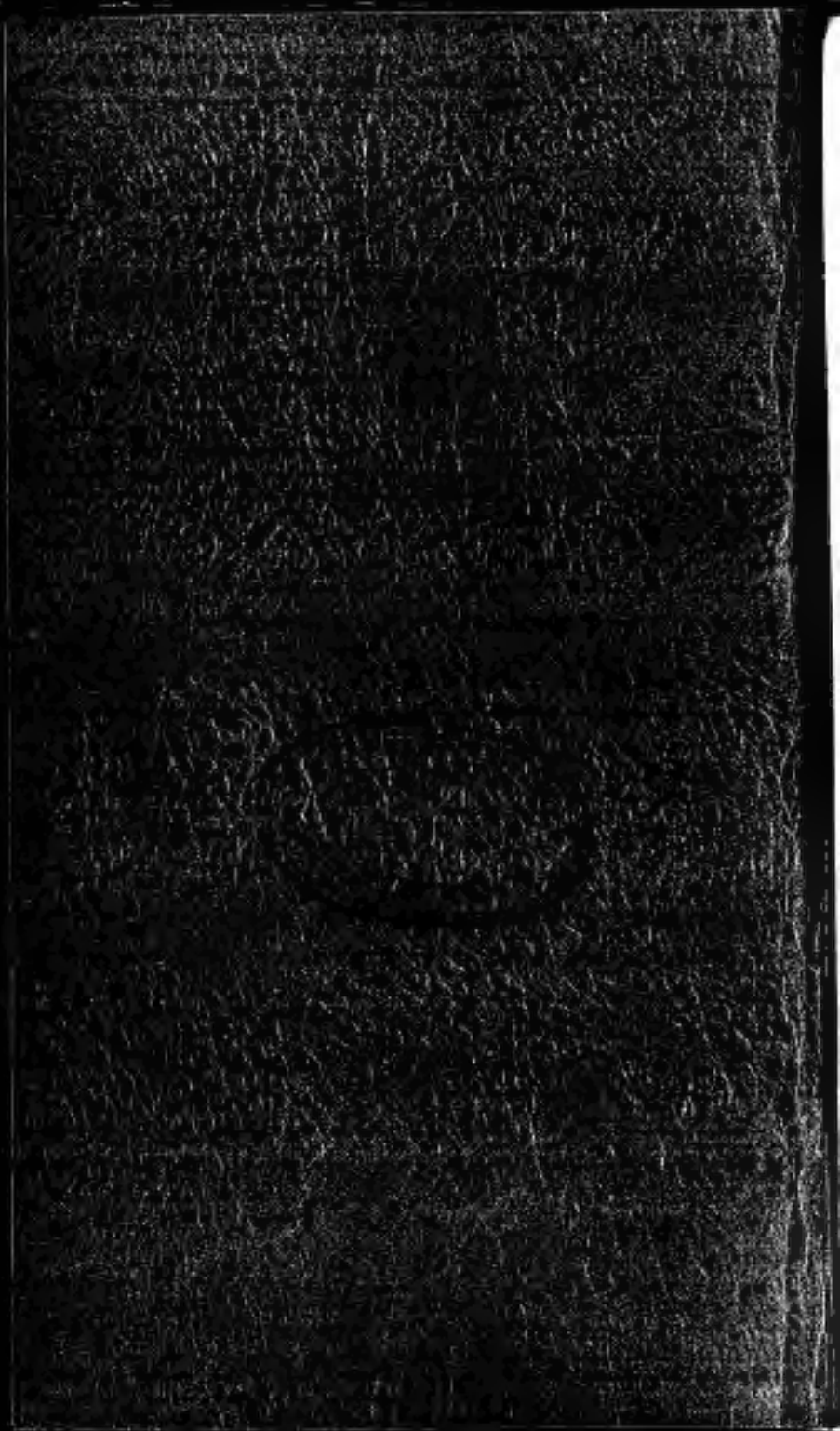
THE TOWNSHIP OF

SENECA

HISTORY

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1867·1967



A History of Seneca

— SENECA CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE —

Robin Kerr, Chairman; Mrs. John H. Nelles, Secretary and Editor; Mrs. Adam Marshall, Mrs. Mac Stoneman, Mrs. Walker Hedley, and Miss Kathleen Moore.

Thanks

The Seneca Centennial Historical Committee proudly presents this book. The Committee wishes to extend sincere thanks to all who have helped in any way to supply information, prepare items and check the final copy.

A special thanks is extended to Mr. Murray Killman for his contribution in art work which has added greatly to the appearance of the book and for designing the cover.

This is the first attempt to print the history of Seneca Township, so it has taken much research. The history is far from complete and there may be some errors but the committee has tried to the best of its ability to get the true facts.

Foreword

The Township of Seneca is a land where little more than a century ago the Grand River passed through almost uninhabited wilderness.

This publication is an attempt to record early history — pioneer days — the development and the achievements of the Township, and also something of the people of the present day who wish only to leave this land to those who will follow — a better place in which to live.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all who have contributed in so many ways in making possible this the first History of Seneca.

Joseph Brant rejects Governor Simcoe's Deed at the Great Indian Council 1798 in Seneca Township.

NOTE: The original of this painting is a Centennial donation by Mr. Murray Killman to the Township of Seneca for their new Municipal Offices at York.

— SETTLEMENT —

To the north-west corner of Haldimand County is the long, fairly narrow township of Seneca stretching along the Grand River, the second largest Township in the County. This township, today, well laid out with productive farms, was once covered with virgin forest. In 1000 to 1200, the Point Peninsula or Woodlands Indians roamed the area. In the 1600-1650's, the Neutral Indians scoured the country. It is believed that they had a main village above Caledonia along the Grand River, then known as the Ouse River.

In 1650, the Neutrals were destroyed by the Seneca tribe of the Iroquois so then the only life in Seneca Township was the transient Chippawa (Mississauga) whose home was on the north shore of Lake Erie.

In the Mohawk Valley in New York State there lived the Six Nation Indians called Iroquois, which consisted of the Mohawk, Onondaga, Seneca, Cayuga, Oneida and Tuscarora tribes. The first three were the senior tribes. The Six Nations named themselves "the People of the Longhouse" with the tall pine tree, "Tree of Peace" as their symbol. The Senecas were the "keepers of the western door" and the most war-like tribe.

The name Seneca, as spelled, quoting Charles McCullough, "is not Indian at all". The spelling indicates Seneca, the great Roman orator of the time of Augustus Caesar.

"Sinako" would be a better rendering of the Algonquin word meaning "stone, snakes" and denoting "hostility" or "dislike".

On September 18, 1960, at Court House Park, Cayuga, a historical Plaque, erected by the Ontario Archaeological and Historic Sites Boards with the following inscription was unveiled:

THE HALDIMAND GRANT, 1784

"Following the American Revolution Sir Frederick Haldimand, Governor-in-Chief of Canada, granted to the Six Nations of the Iroquois a tract of land extending for six miles on both sides of the Grand River from its source to Lake Erie. This grant was made in recognition of their services as allies of the British Crown during the war and to recompense them for the loss of their former lands in northern New York State. In later years, large areas of this tract, including portions of the present counties of Haldimand, Brant, Waterloo and Wellington, were sold to white settlers."

Joseph Brant invited his friends from the Mohawk Valley — the Young and Nelles families to settle on the grant where Seneca Township now is. In 1785, the Nelles and Young settlements in Seneca commenced and slowly developed. A census of 1785, gives the number of Seneca Indians which presumably settled in Seneca as 47 and the Onondagas, called Barefoots, as 51. A map by Rev. Robert Lugger, 1828, showed a settlement of Seneca Indians which appears to be west of Caledonia and a settlement of Onondagas near Caledonia.

In 1793, Governor John Graves Simcoe offered a deed to the Six Nations Indians for the Indian Land Grant which they had received in 1784. This deed stated that the Six Nations could not sell, lease, give or exchange their lands other than among themselves. As Chief Joseph Brant wished to be able to sell these lands within the grant to white settlers in order to raise money for the use of the Indians, he refused Simcoe's deed. This refusal was given at the Central Indian Council meeting place which was near Caledonia, along the Grand River in Seneca Township. Delegations from both sides, Six Nation Indians and white men, met there with Governor Simcoe.

The Haldimand Grant of land was in dispute for many years, until 1822.

Settlement was slow until about 1832 when the land for the new Township of Seneca was purchased from the Indians and the Grand River Navigation Company began operations.

Then the Senecas and Onondagas gradually moved to the land which the government reserved for the Six Nations across the river, and the people mostly from England, Ireland and Scotland flocked into Seneca Township where they made homes, cleared the land and began the development of the country.

The money that the original settlers paid for their crown deeds to the Indian Lands Office was set aside for the benefit and support of the Six Nations.

SETTLEMENT OF SENECA TOWNSHIP

— THE YOUNG TRACT —

Adam Young, born 1717, in Schoharie County, U.S., moved with his family to Mohawk River in 1722. There in Herkimer Co., N.Y., south of the Mohawk River, he acquired 2600 acres of land, kept store and traded with the Indians.

When the American Revolution broke out, Adam refused to take an oath to the States, and he gave provisions to the Loyalists going to Canada. At one time, he helped 74 Loyalists. Because of this they imprisoned him for 11 months, burned his house and buildings and took all his belongings. He joined Col. Butler at Oswego in 1778 along with his four sons—John, David, Daniel and Henry. David died in service with the Butler Rangers.

After the war, Joseph Brant invited them to settle on his grant of land on the Grand River. They were given a lease for 999 years for the Young tract which is between York and Indiana in Seneca. There they pioneered and made a fresh start in 1785. Adam died sometime before 1797.

Many descendants live in Seneca and Oneida Townships and all over the continent. Some members who have served Seneca Township are Robert Young, councillor 1850, deputy reeve 1851; David Young Sr., councillor 1854-64; deputy reeve 1855, reeve 1856-58, 1860-62, 1863-65 and Warden of Haldimand County in 1863; Dennis Young, Treasurer 1852-56, 1860 1863; Christopher Young, Councillor 1851-55; Jacob Young, Treasurer, 1863-71; Alexander Young, Councillor, 1893-96, 1899-1900, deputy reeve 1897-98, reeve 1901, Treasurer 1905; David Young, councillor, 1907-09, reeve 1910-12; Harry Young, tax collector 1928-43, Clerk 1946-63; and Frank A. Young, Councillor 1947-54 and reeve 1949-54. At present Stewart Young is on the school board and Jack Young is on the council. Howard Young and sons still reside on the Young Tract.

— THE NELLES SETTLEMENT —

"The inscription on plaque at St. John's Church, York"

"THE NELLES SETTLEMENT, 1785"

After receiving lands on the Grand River in 1784, the Six Nations Indians invited Captain Hendrick Nelles, a Loyalist from the Mohawk Valley, to settle there with five of his sons. He and Robert, the eldest, established farms in what is now Seneca Township and built houses in which they lived until Captain Nelles' death in 1791 and Robert's removal to Grimsby. Their grants, confirmed in 1787, were later changed to 999 year leases and John Nelles leased 325 acres across the river. William, Warner and Abraham Nelles received crown patents in 1836 for the original "Nelles Tract" in Seneca granted to their father and brother in 1787. The "Nelles Settlement" contained about thirty families in 1828.

Research is not complete on this subject yet, but it is thought that the Major Nelles' house was where Jack Young now lives and Robert's home was nearer York. Their buildings were used as much for trading posts as for farming. In 1791, they had opened a road, one of the earliest in this region, which led to Grimsby township. It went up Red House hill and back to the jog in the road at John Young's.

The Nelles name which used to be plentiful in Seneca township, is now upheld by Walter Nelles and son Ronnie, at York, Ross Nelles below York and John H. Nelles and son William above York. There are numerous Nelles descendants locally and all across the country.

THE MAJOR HENRY NELLES MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

On December 1, 1964, the Major Henry Nelles Memorial Committee was organized with Mrs. Peter Slote, Hagersville, as Chairman and Mrs. John H. Nelles as secretary. Their projects have been the erection and unveiling on October 1, 1965 of the cairn at St. John's Churchyard, to Major Henry Nelles and in co-operation with the Haldimand County Museum Committee, the unveiling of the Provincial Plaque erected by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario commemorating "The Nelles Settlement, 1785", on September 18, 1966.

*

— THE VILLAGE OF SENECA —

Since Seneca Village, now incorporated into the town of Caledonia was part of Seneca Township until some time in the 1860's, its founding is included in our history.

Quote from Wm. H. Smith's Gazeteer published in 1846:

"Seneca: a flourishing village in the township of Seneca. Situated on the Grand River one mile below Caledonia, it contains about 140 inhabitants. There is a Methodist Church in the Village.

"Professions and trades: one grist mill (four run of stone), one saw mill, carding machine and cloth factory, planing machine, chair factory; one physician and surgeon; two stores, three taverns, one cabinet maker, three shoemakers, three blacksmiths, one turner, one tailor.."

The owner of the saw mill was Jacob Turner, a contractor for the Grand River Navigation Company. In 1852, he was warden of Haldimand County.

The grist mill was erected by James B. Holden, great grandfather of Harry Young. His partner was Benjamin S. Mills.

The wool carding machine was built by Alpheus D. Mackey. One of the stores was run by James Little who was the first postmaster.

Seneca met the same fate as other hamlets due to the plank road going through Caledonia, the building of the railways, the loss of the bridge and dam which had been built across the river and to the down fall of the Grand River Navigation Company.

*

— SIMS LOCKS —

Sims Locks was named after Mr. Sims who built the locks at each end of the canal for the Grand River Navigation Company in 1833. There was a dam with a fall of 8½ feet across the river.

Mr. John Jackson, grandfather of Andrew Jackson, was an engineer for the locks at Seneca, Sims Locks and York. Mr. Cahill (pronounced Kale) was lockkeeper.

With so much available water power numerous mills were built and Sims Locks became an industrial settlement. Businesses and operators were—two sawmills opposite Bert Baker' house operated by his grandfather Henry Baker and one sawmill by James McNiven; and iron factory by Matchett; grist mill by P. McKerracher and James Parish and Co.; and furniture factory on south side of canal by Wilson, Agnew and Craig, three young Scots. Many local people still have furniture which was made there. These young men establishd an undertaking business and built a hearse house with display room, near their residence, Millfield.

The tavern, operated by John Dick, was near the Kerr house. Here, it is believed, too, was a stable to house a change of horses for the stage coach.

Along the canal were homes of the residents. Mrs. Taylor lived behind the present location of James Kerr's home and in front of her place was a drawbridge for Mr. Baker and his men to cross the canal to the sawmills. Rafts were used to take supplies across the canal to the furniture factory and to bring back the finished product.

Some time before 1925, Bill Lishman, who lived at the north of Sims Locks Drive helped commence the Lishman bus lines which still operate in the Kitchener area. Mr. Siggins, gardener who lives there now, has a store on wheels in which he calls on his regular customers.

In time, due to the destruction of the dam about 1863, business at Sims Locks ceased to flourish, but recently new residences have been built along Sims Locks Drive and the owners commute to their place of business or employment.

*

— SIMS LOCKS W.I. —

Thirty-six years ago, on September 19, 1931, Sims Locks W. I. was organized in the Sims Locks School. Mrs. Jos. Peart, member of F.W.I.O., a former teacher of the school, was present to organize it. The officers elected were President—Mrs. B. Guyatt, Vice-President—Mrs. W. H. Nelles, Sec.-Treas.—Mrs. H. Thompson. Charter members who are still members are Mrs. B. Guyatt, Mrs. Elgin Bradt, Mrs. Fred Moore, Mrs. Oscar Peart (present president), Mrs. Walter Nelles and Mrs. Ed. Baker. Meetings were held every second Thursday of the month until recently when they are held on the first Thursday of the month. In December, 1933, the W.I. furnished a room in the Masonic Temple, York. This room was loaned by Enniskillen Lodge to the W. I. and is still being used.

The Motto, for "Home and Country" has been the background on which the many activities of the W. I. have been based—programs, bus trips, donations, bees, extension services, 4-H clubs, social evenings and others.

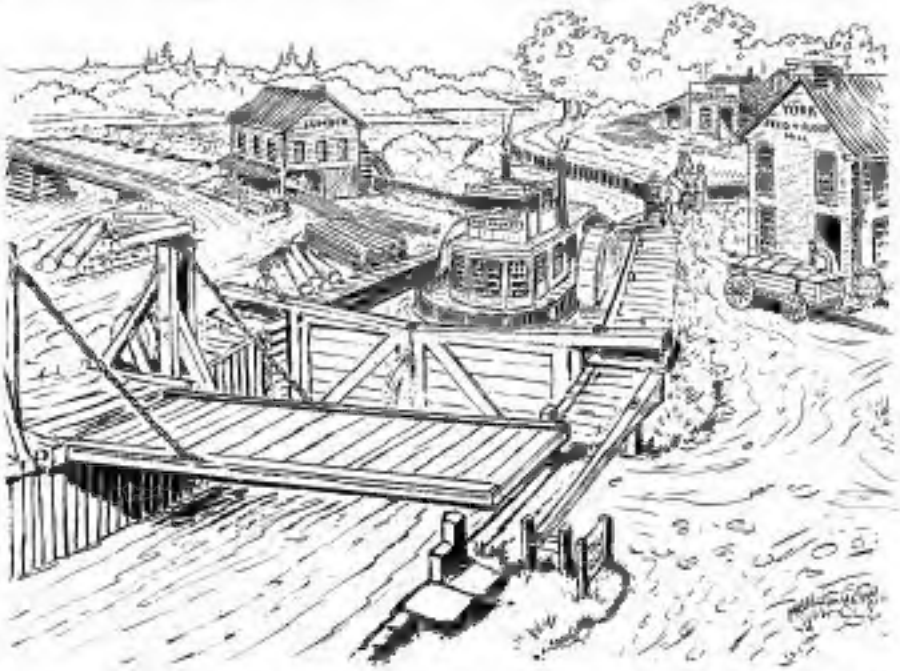
*

— SIMS LOCKS FARM RADIO FORUM —

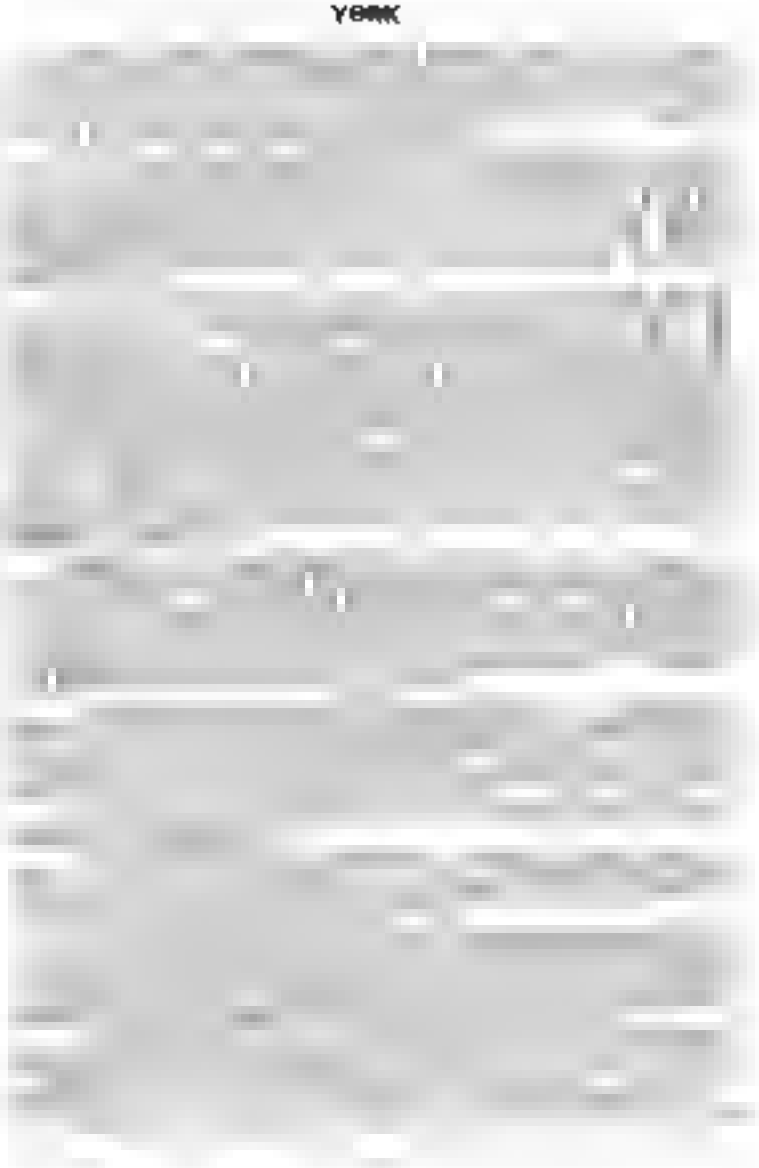
On January 6, 1947, the Sims Locks Farm Radio Forum was organized at the Sims Locks School house with an attendance of 25. Meetings have been held regularly on Monday nights from November to March in the Sims Locks school house, York township Hall or members' homes.

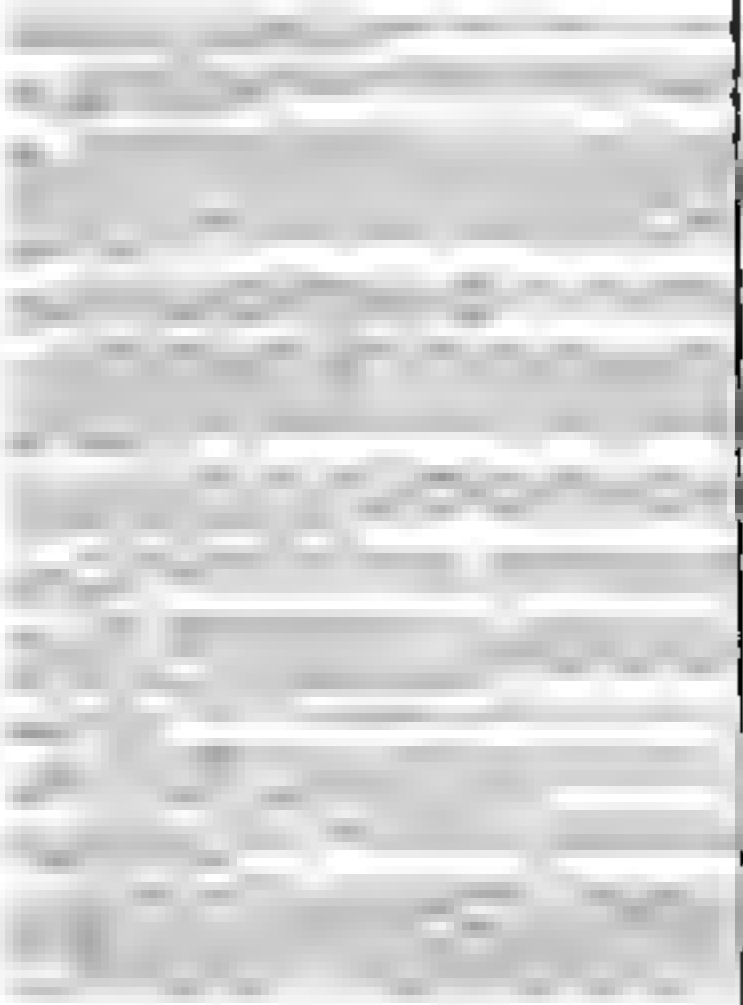
In 1965, after twenty-five years, Farm Radio Forum ceased but was incorporated into Rural Learning Association.

Sims Locks forum joined R.L.A. and continues to meet for a social evening.



The "Red Jacket" going through the Grand River Navigation Co. Locks at York
1845





SENECA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION

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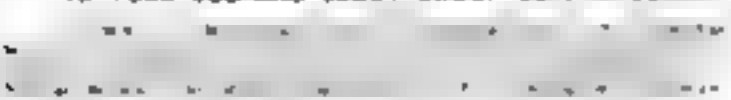
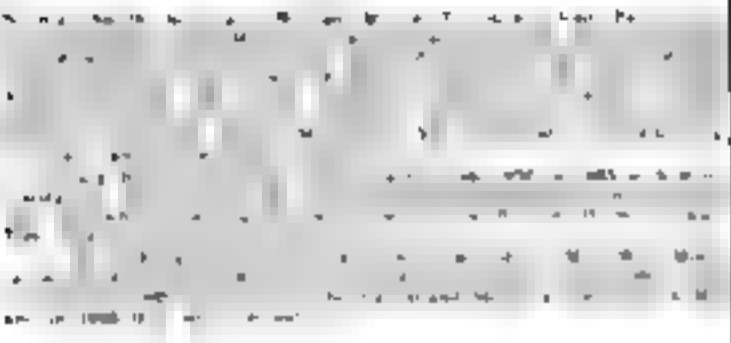
YORK TEEN TOWN — 1959-1966

1st YORK CUB AND SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

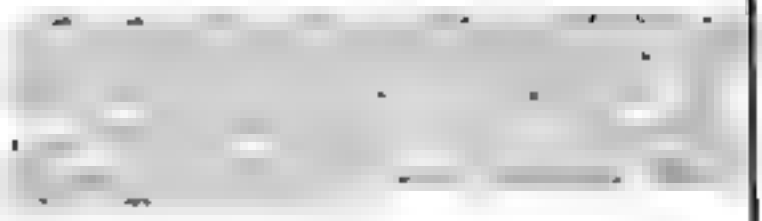




FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

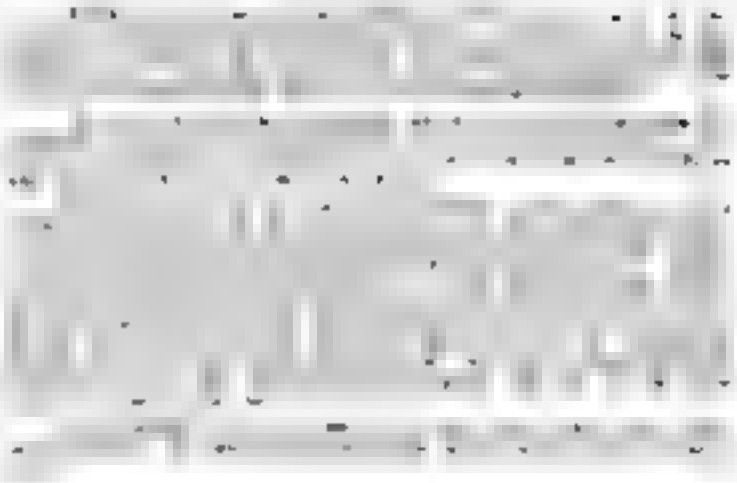
THE GRAND RIVER MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE

- INDIANA



— TYNESIDE

— BLACKHEATH —



BLACKHEATH ATHLETIC HALL

BLACKHEATH W.I.

— BLACKHEATH LIONS CLUB

OF CANADA

[illegible]

[illegible]

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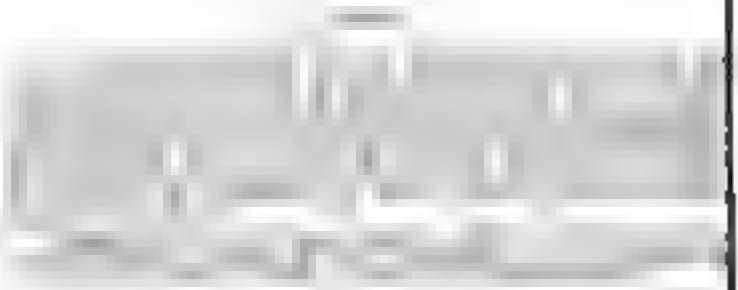
LADIES GRANGE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION
No. 533, SENECA

— COOK'S STATION —

— THE HULL SAW MILL —

Township



United Church Women of Unity

FISHER'S -

SPINE A -

Empire Mission Society

SINCLAIRVILLE

The Happy Circle —

[illegible]

[illegible]

family in memory of their [illegible]

TYNESIDE

Edwards Cemetery

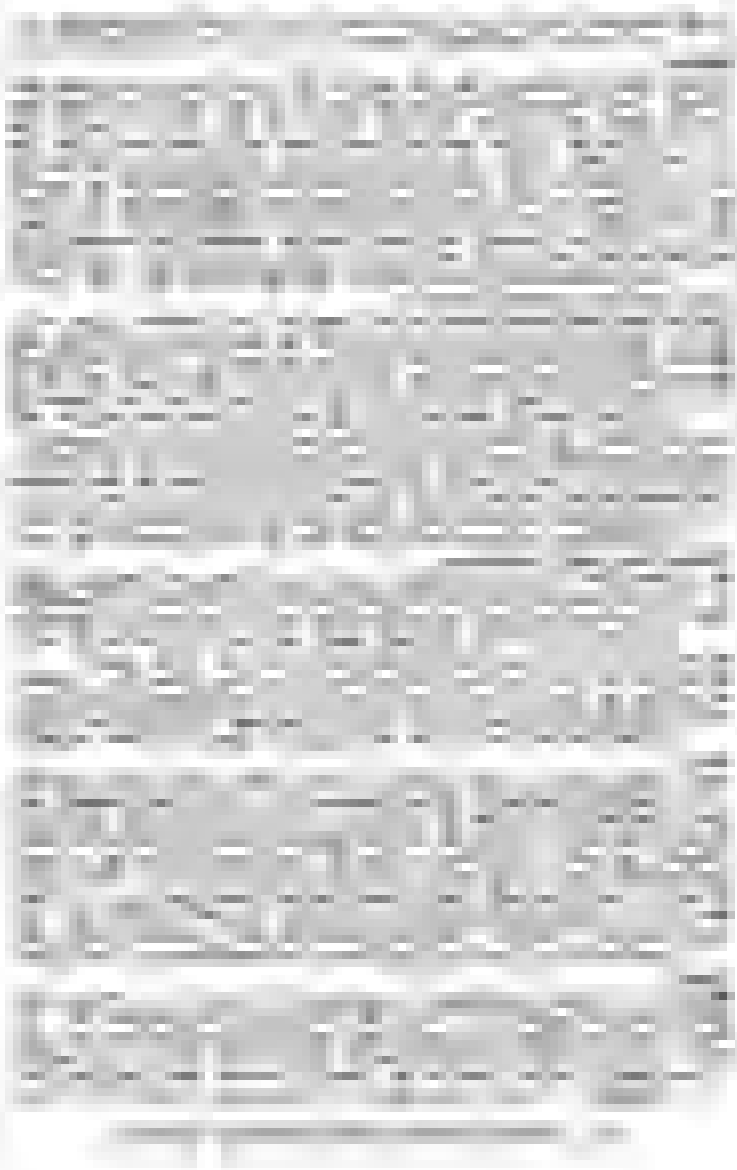
BLACKHEATH —

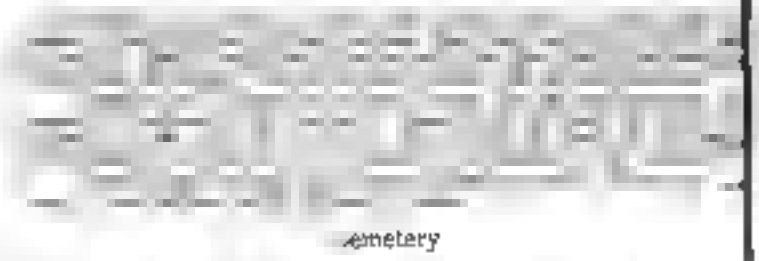
Mission Band

YORK UNITED CHURCH

United Church Women of York

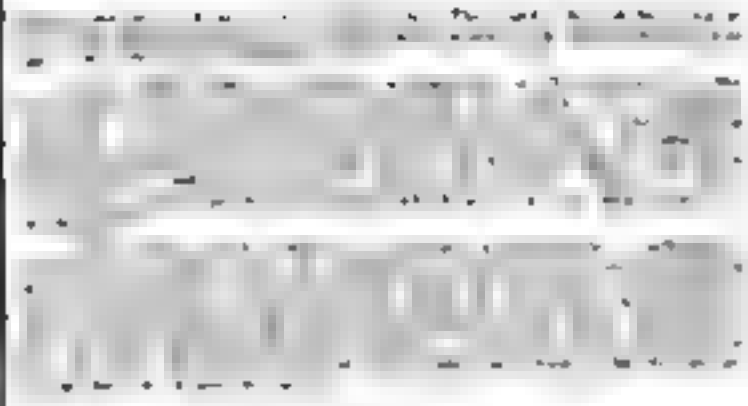
Canadian Girls In Training





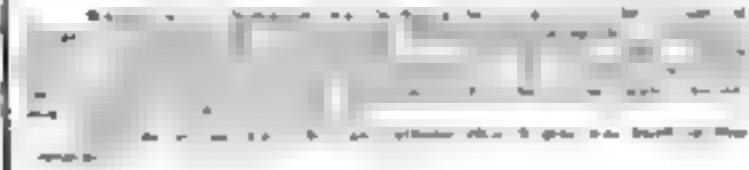
Cemetery

St. John's Men's Club, York



Dutch Elder Ladies Society

INDIANA

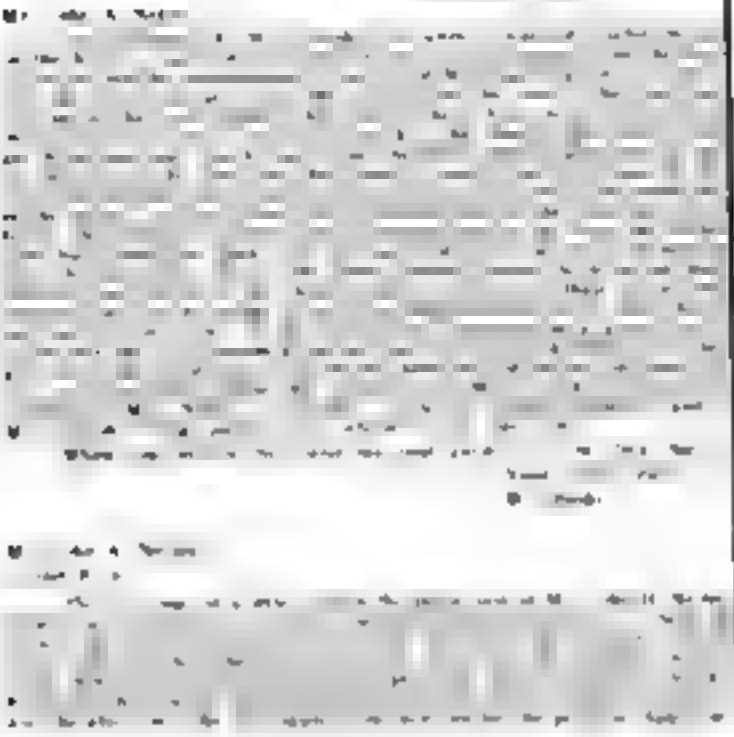


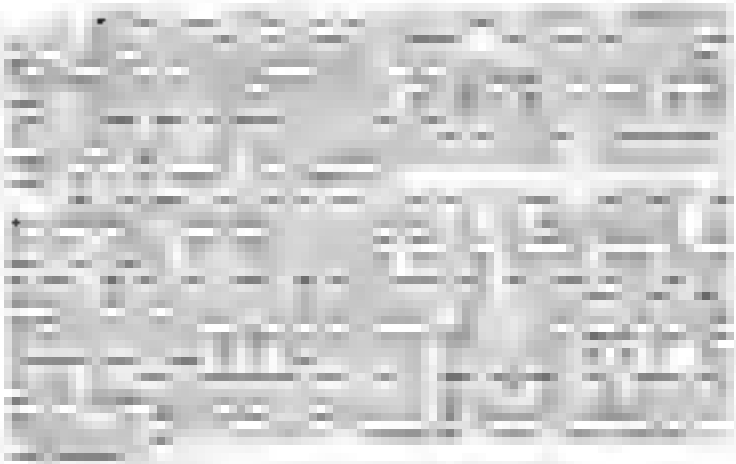
ST MARK'S CHURCH

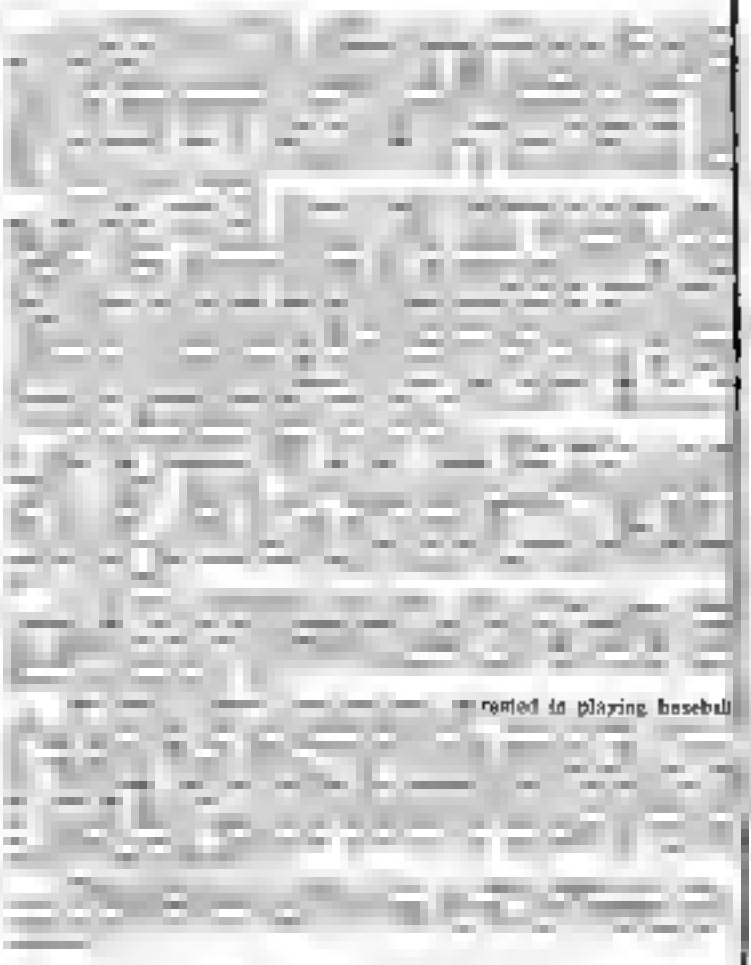
COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE

EDUCATION

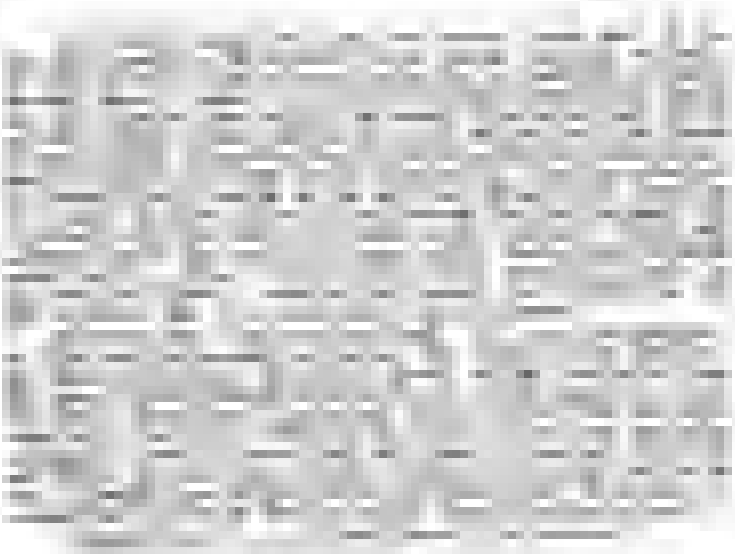
EARLIEST EDUCATION IN SENECA







S.S. No 2 WELCOME

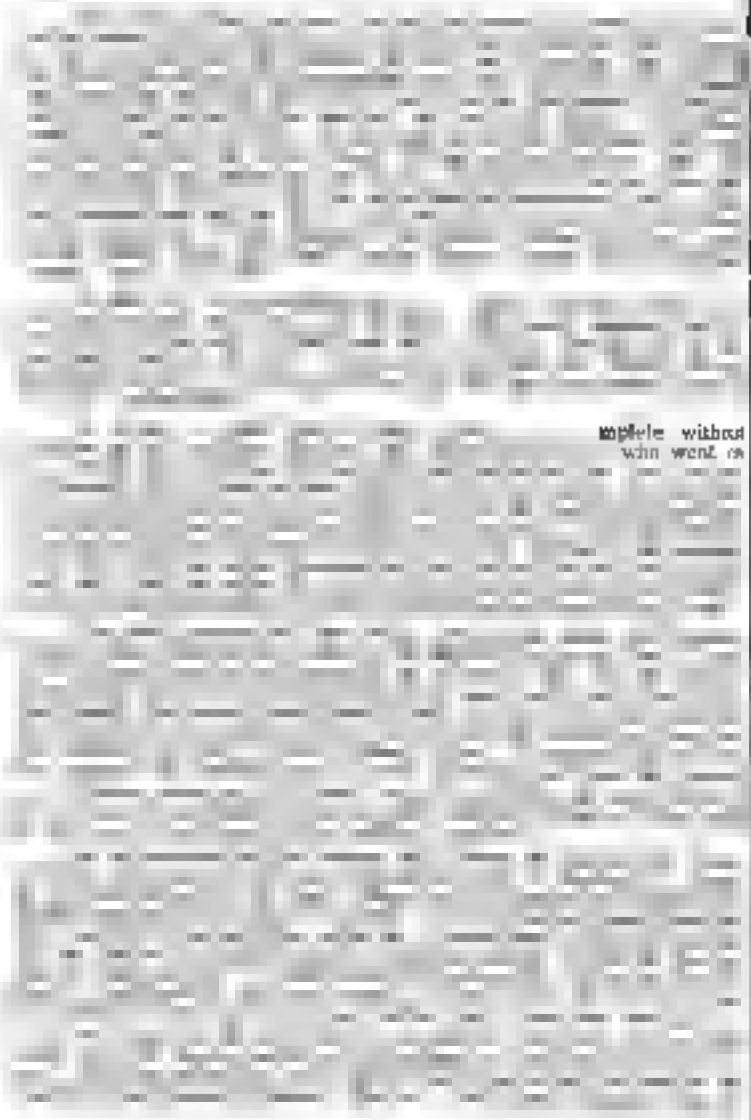


S.S No 3 & 5 BURROWS

S.3 No 4 SIMS LOCK

S.S. No 6 PETCH'S

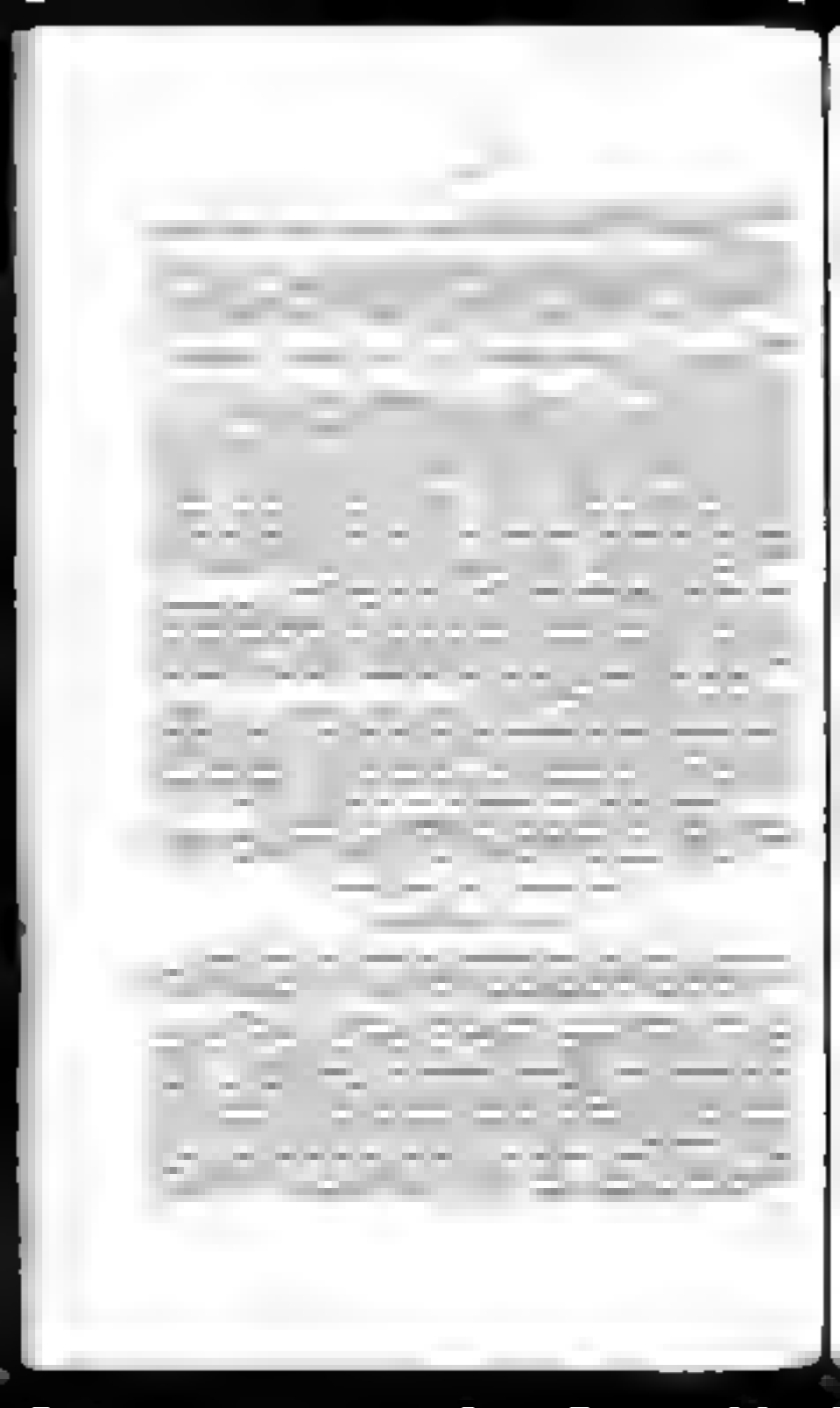
S.S. No 7 YORK



Cecther Woodbridge. P.O
Dear Sir

Yours truly
B. Thomas

S.S. No. 9 EMPIRE



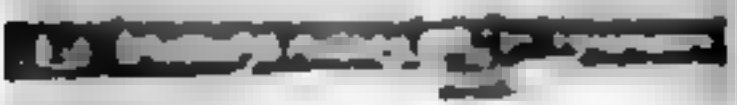
S.S No. 11

Information supplied by Mr Patrick J Long

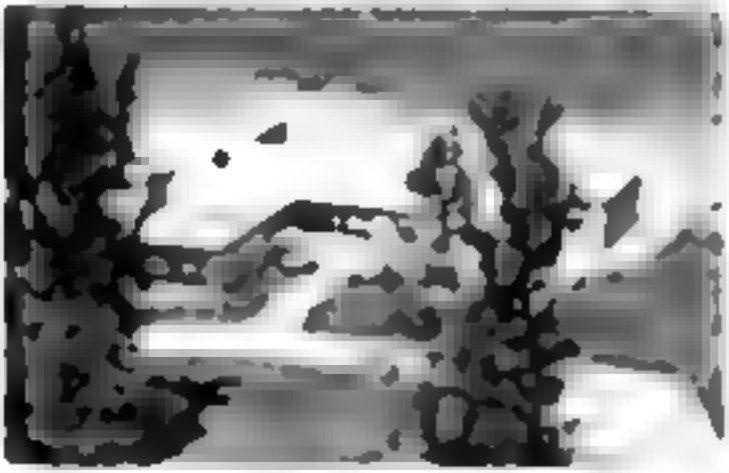
d many of their own residents as teachers. -

S.S. No. 13 COOK'S

SENECA 2A —



— SENECA CENTRAL No. 1



— SCHOOLS IN GENERAL —

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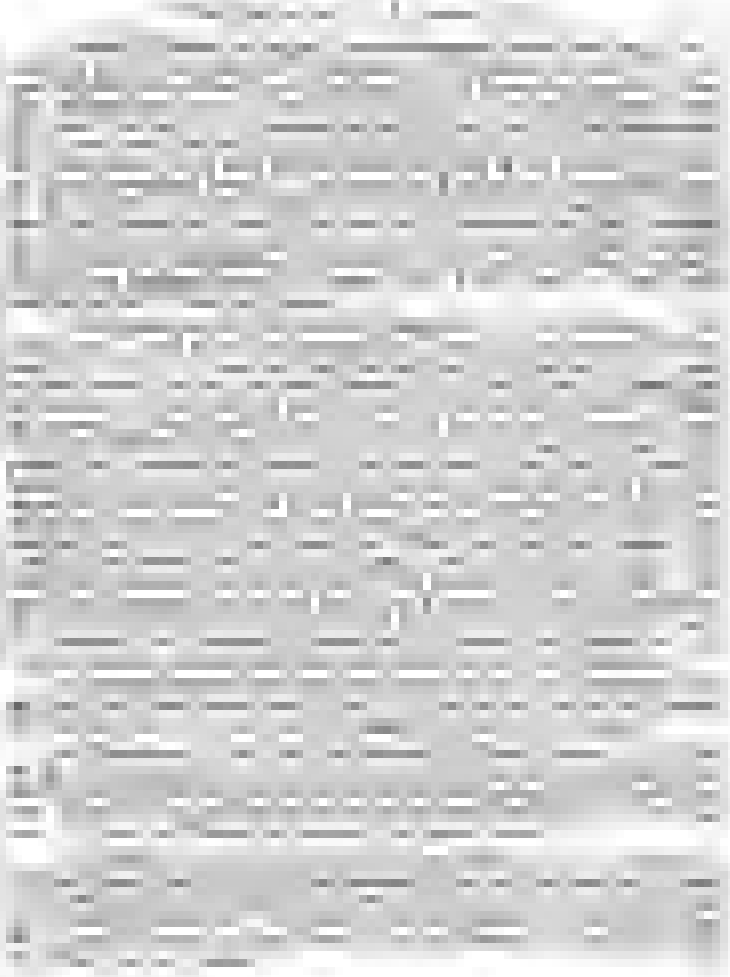
TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA

Township School Area

[redacted]

SUPERINTENDENTS



INSPECTORS -

SEPERATE SCHOOLS -

- SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR SENECA PUPILS

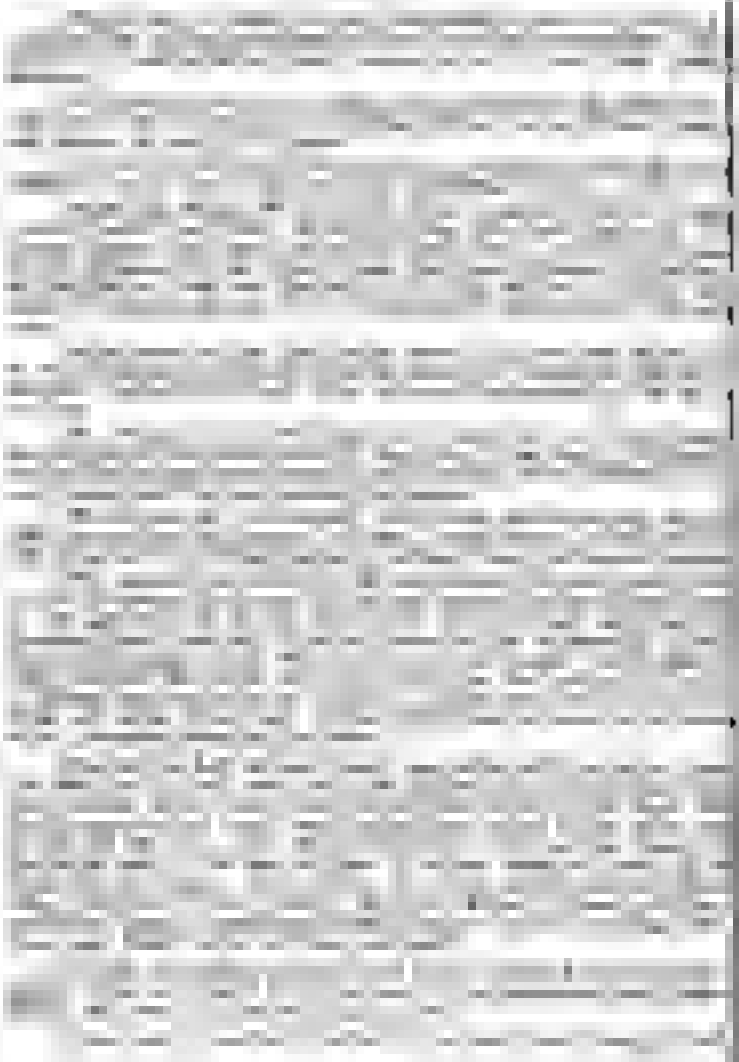
When elementary school was completed, Seneca pupils could attend two High Schools or Grammar Schools as they were first known, one at Cayuga, begun in 1851 and one at Caledonia, begun in 1859. At that time in Caledonia part of the Public School was used for a Grammar School. When the accommodation became insufficient for all pupils in the winter of 1874 a new Grammar School was opened in a room over Dr. Burns' office on Caithness St. It was here that Mr. Clarke Moses came on as a teacher.

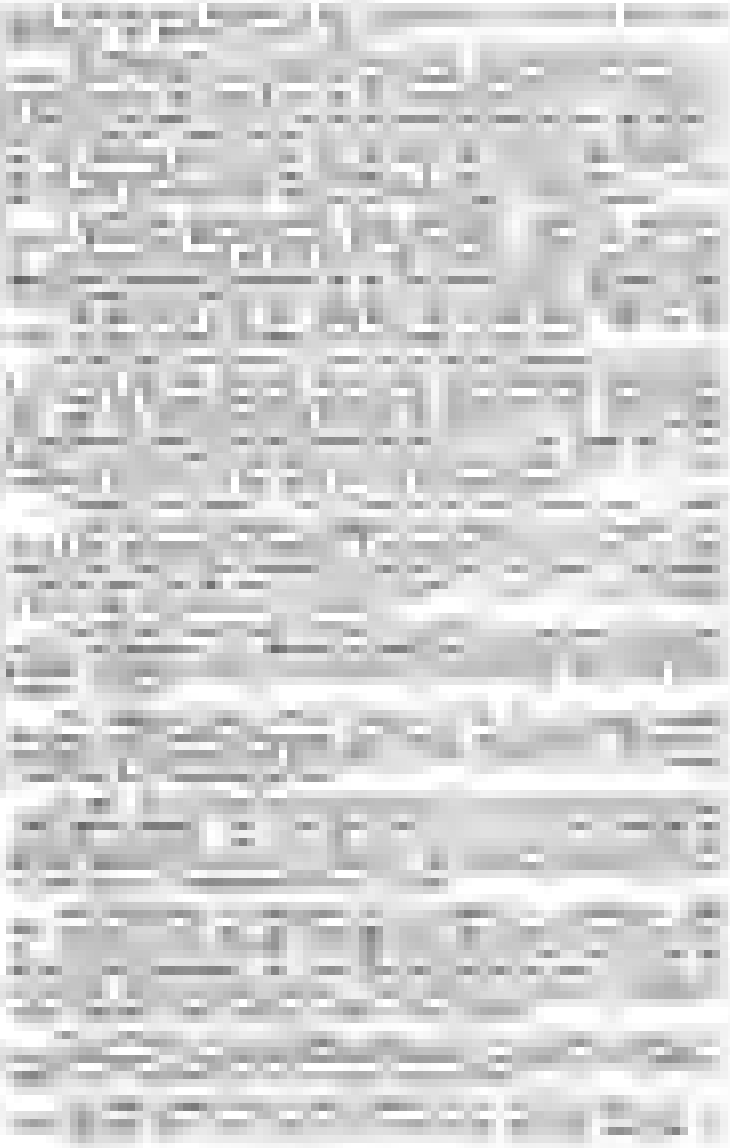
An addition of four rooms was made to the Caledonia School in 1877 one room of which was used for Model School and the other three for High School. In that year, there were sixty in attendance at Caledonia High and forty at Cayuga High. In the Model School that same year there were 12 teachers-in-training in the fall term and 14 in the spring term. One of the duties of the County Inspector was to lecture in Model School.

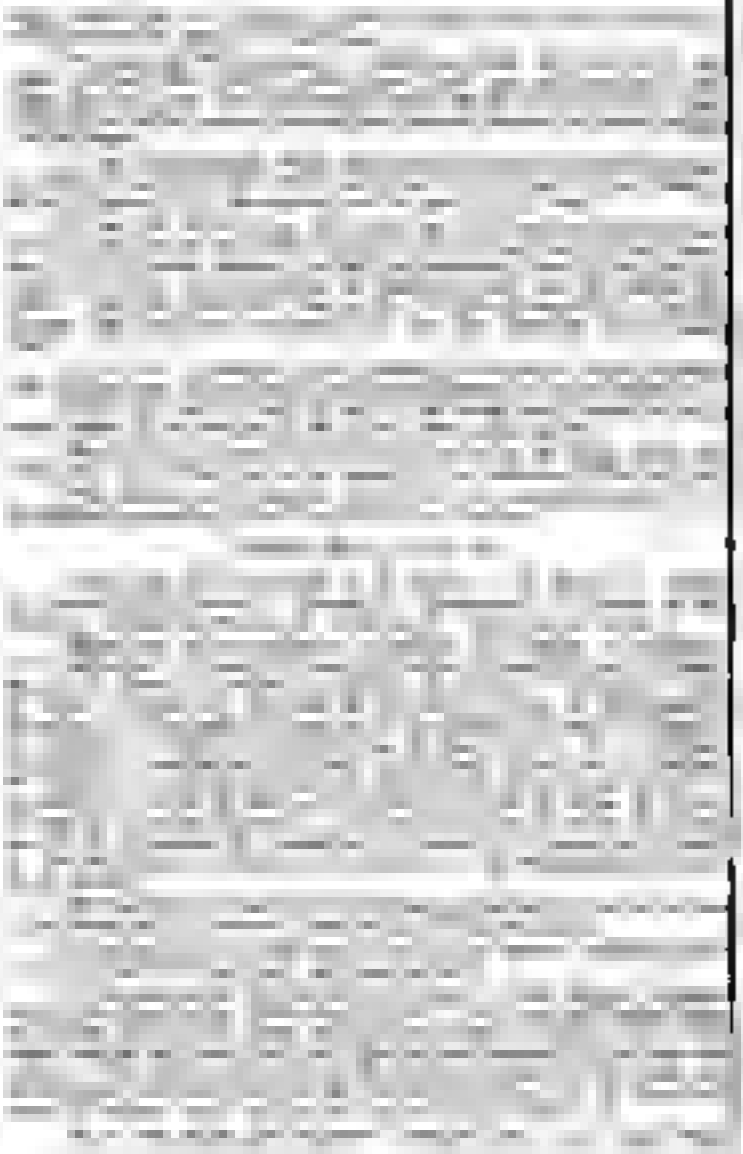
It is interesting to note that a former Prime Minister of Canada taught in Caledonia High School for one year. This was near the end of the nineteenth century and in 1911, Mr. Arthur Meighen returned to Caledonia no less a person than the Solicitor-General of Canada to speak on behalf of the Reciprocity Treaty.

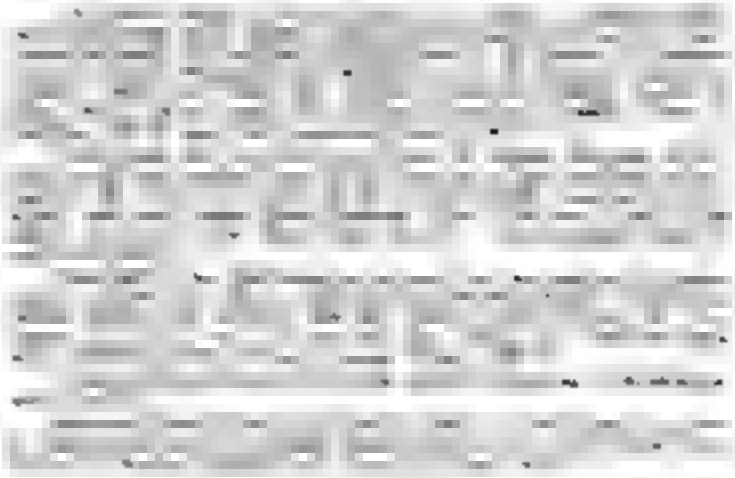
A new High School was built in Caledonia to be opened in 1924 with Mr. T. J. Hicks as Principal. Mr. Hicks had first come to Caledonia in 1913 and many Seneca girls and boys attended during his term of office. Mr. Otto Clark is principal in 1967.

With the opening of the new Technical and Commercial School at Cayuga in 1963, secondary students of Seneca are divided between these two schools according to the courses which they choose to take. The Principal at Cayuga, Mr. Gordon Saunders, taught in Seneca for some time at the Locks. The Supervising Principal of both these schools in the West Haldimand District is Mr. Ernest Smith.



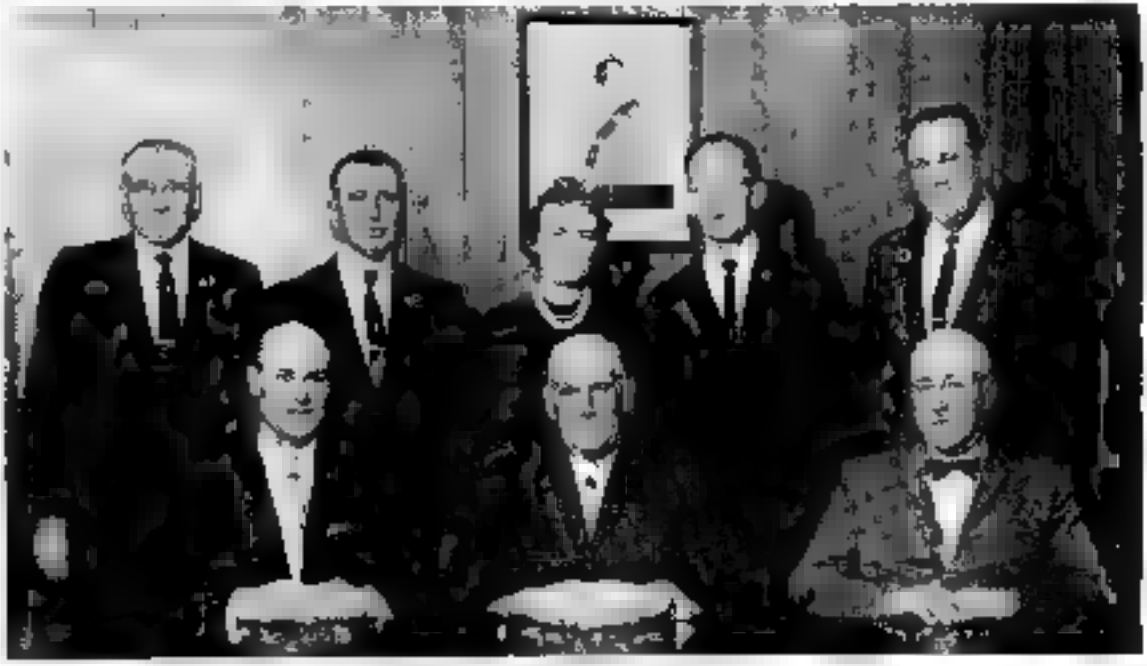






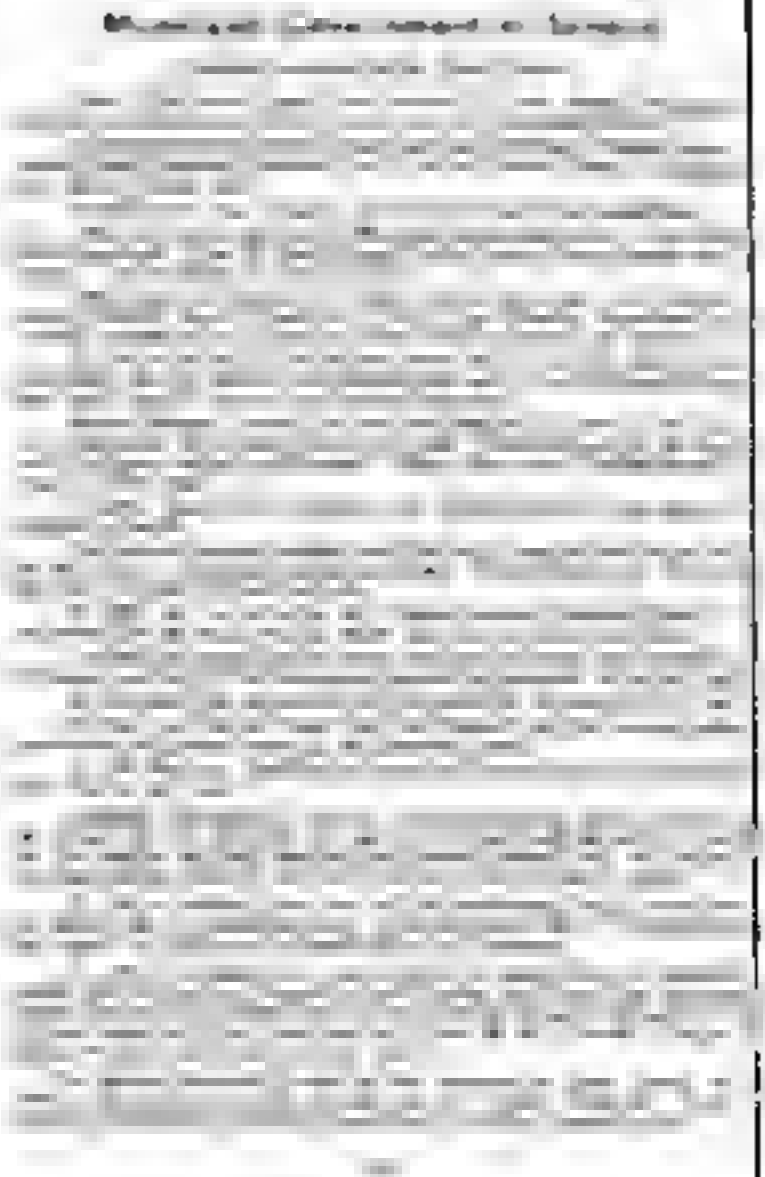
Portrait of Mayor of Marchmont (cont'd)

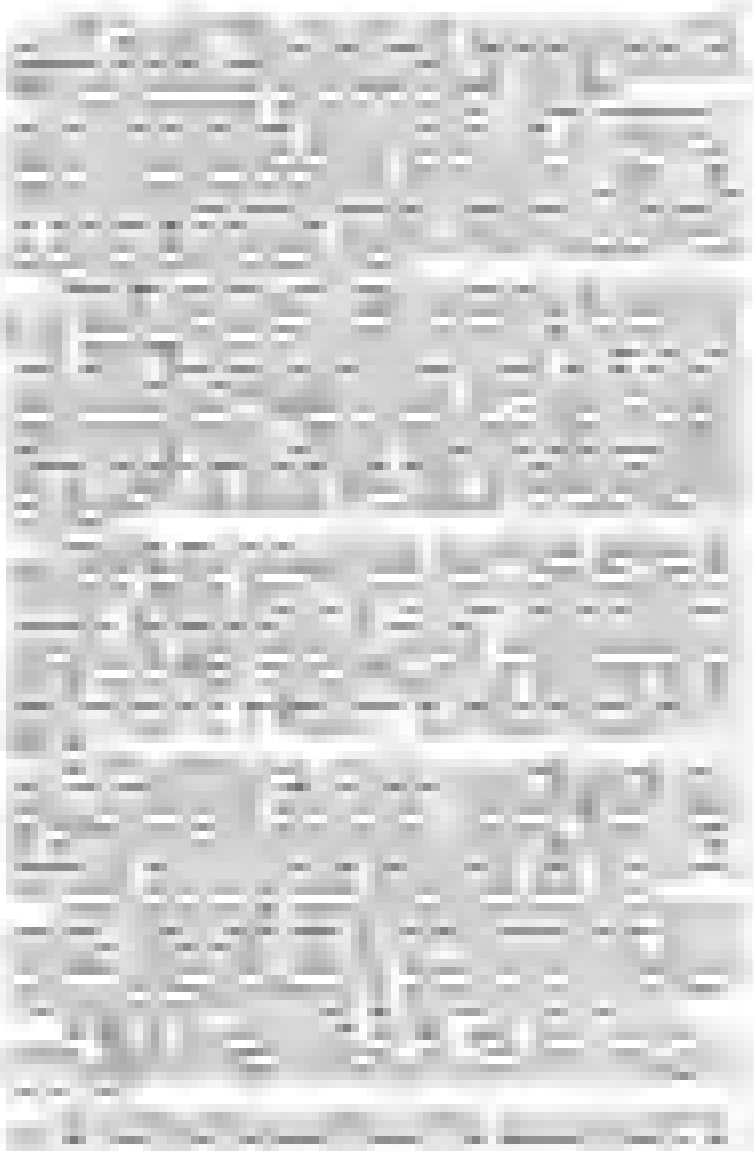
of the Toronto Saturday Night

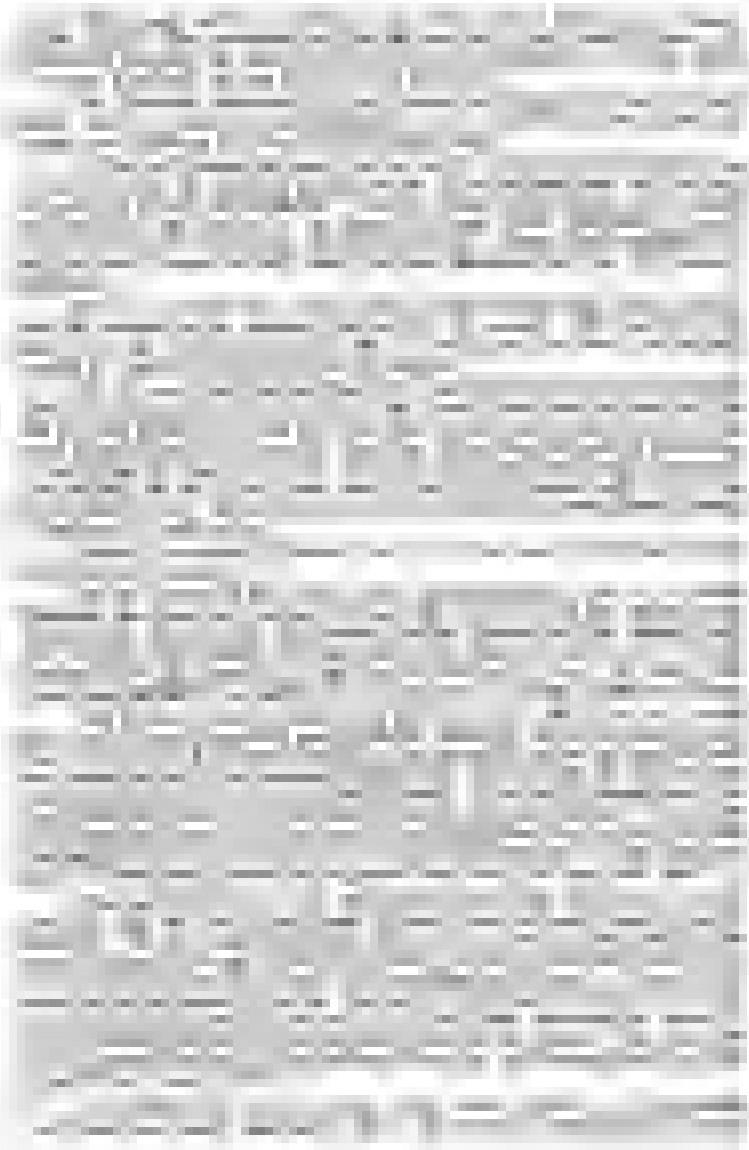


TOWNSHIP OF SENECA COUNCIL 1956

SEATED—Glen Hawley Morley Johnston, Reeve Clayton Smith, Deputy Reeve
STANDING—Eric Barclay Clerk Bruce Whaley Mrs James Trowbridge Treasurer Jack Young Bruce Edwards Road Superintendent







[redacted]

[redacted]

Melton and they operated their own store the telegraph was moved to their store and Mrs. Melton continued as operator. The call letter for York was "X". It was useful during elections to obtain the results and was used by Mr. Lew Harris, who shipped horses from the west and many other purposes.

HERITAGE —

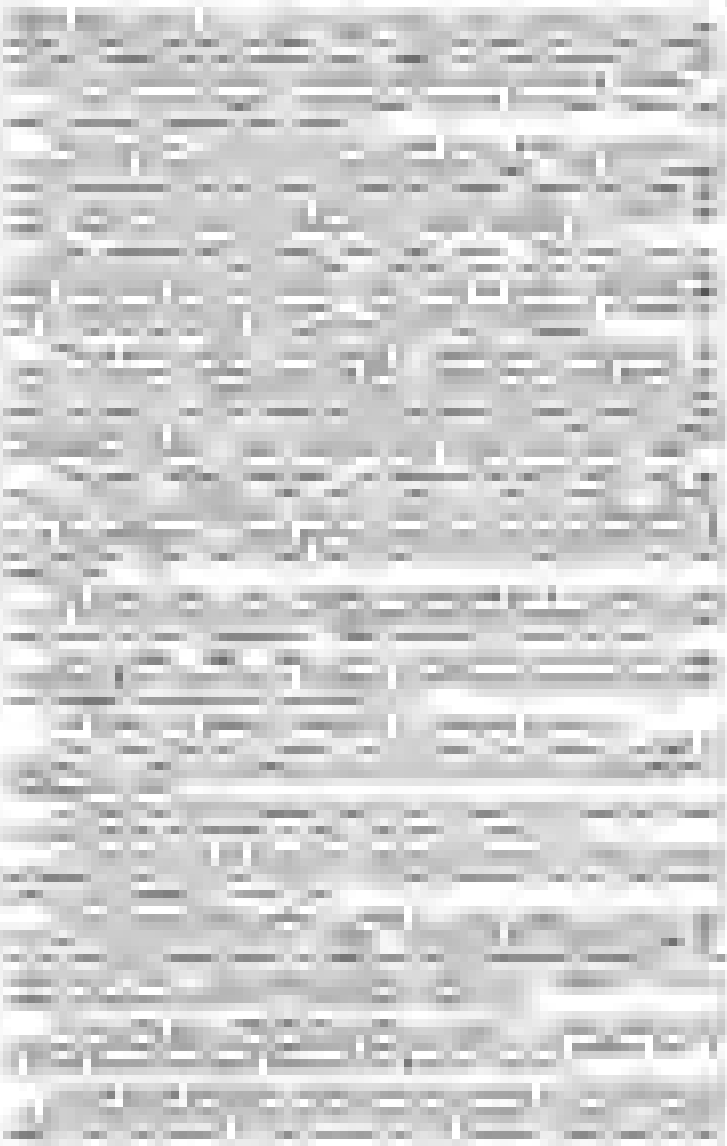
Within this book of history
Are deeds you will recall:
Foundations for the future
To be yet lived by all.
This year's our nation's birthday
A century of life
The birthday of this nation
Had been a bitter strife
This township can remember
When blood and life were spilled,
When land was cleared by Loyalists.
When virgin fields were tilled.
As pioneers lived so bravely
Their hardships one by one
Did questions rise within them? —
What heritage for my son?
This heritage they gave us
Of hope of will and pride
Of love of land of freedom
For this some sons have died
Some sons grew old, and also
Gave sons our sons to die
Now though they go forever
Ancestral bloods flow still
And though our Seneca Township
Bonds changes from the old.
This heritage they gave us
We'll never let grow cold
A nation's hundredth birthday
In centuries to come
What heritage will we have left
The future Seneca sons
A love for God, for country
For doing each his best
To be within Canadian
Have faith. He'll do the rest

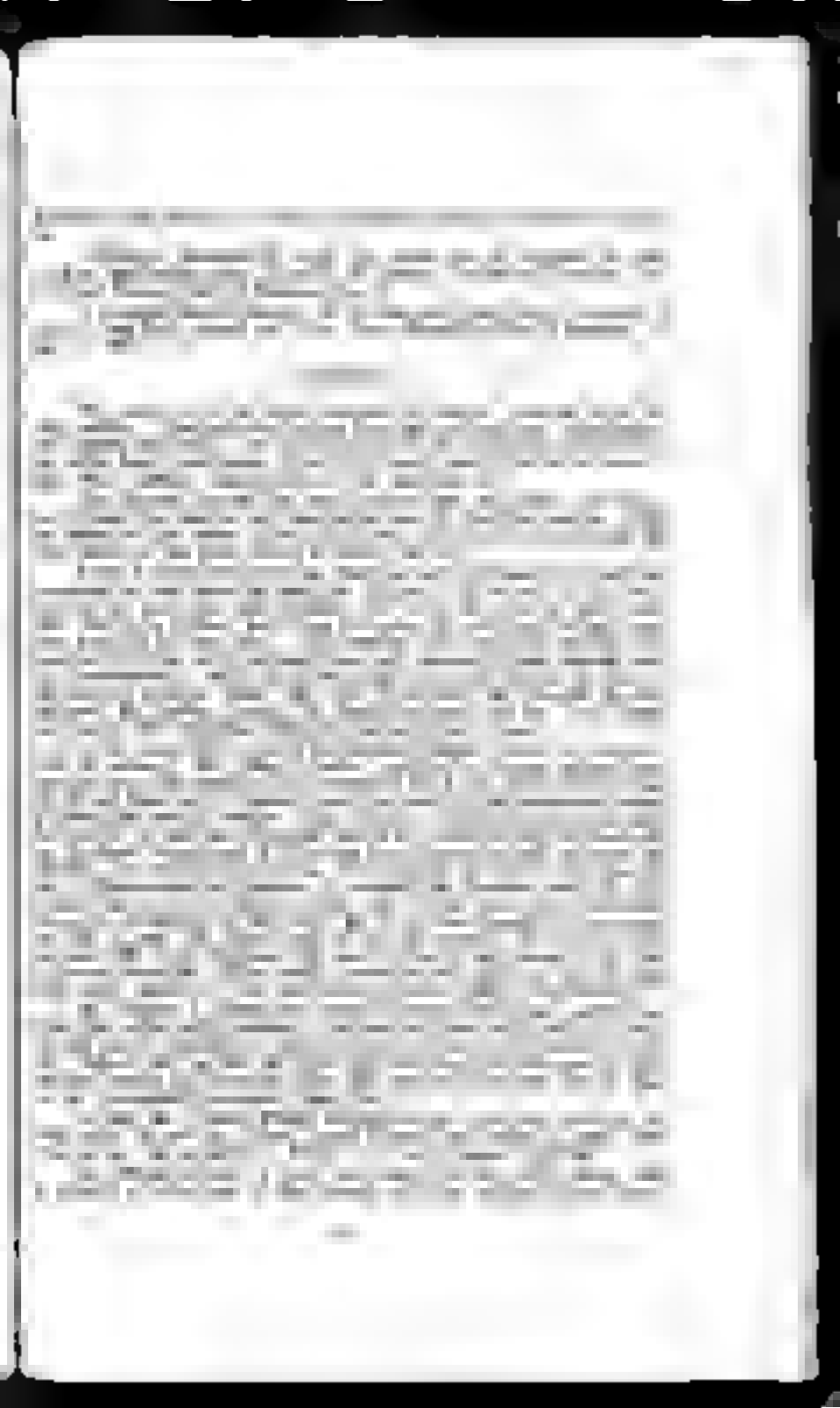
TOWNSHIP OF SENECA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

SEATED—Mr. Mac Stonehouse, Milbert Monnk Chairman Robin Kerr Mrs John H Nelles Secretary Mrs Walker Hedley

STANDING—Eric Lindsay Bruce Edwards Mrs Adam Marshall Miss Kathleen Moore Mrs Murray Kilman Murray Kilman sphis Jack Brenzil building contractor Morley Johnston

Agriculture in Seneca Township





which about 500 people attended. He had a herd of 40 milking cows. In 1938 he commenced pasteurization of milk.

In 1944, Mr. Phipps purchased the property of Mr. George Miller where he built a dairy with a dairy bar and moved his business from the farm. He then bought milk from farmers in the district. About 1956 Mr. Phipps sold the business to Mr. Ross Harrison who still supplies Caledonia and district with bottled milk.

Fairs

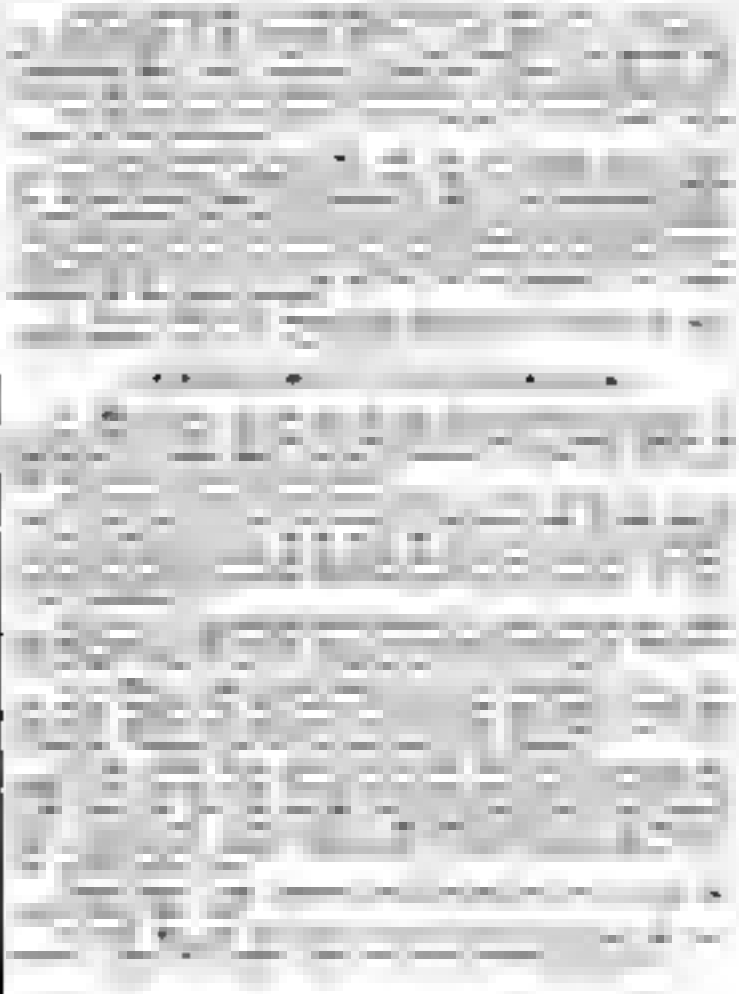
The Haldimand County Agricultural Society was formed in 1852 when it received from the Governor General a donation of 5 pounds. Since then annual aid has been received. In 1854 the Seneca and Oneida Agricultural Society was a thriving organization and Fairs were held annually in either or both of these villages. After the decline of these two villages the Fair was moved to York which was then the largest urban community in the County and many people today remember with nostalgia the Fairs at York.

York Fair was known as the Western Branch Agricultural Society. In 1867 the president was Isaac Geddes, Indiana and the secretary was Fred A. Welles, York. Also in 1867 the president of the Haldimand Co. Agricultural Society was David Thompson, Indiana and the secretary was Jacob Young, York. In 1900 York Fair was absorbed by Caledonia Fair.

The only Fair in Haldimand County is now held in Caledonia for three days each year and has become a big attraction in the County. It started in 1873. This is where 4-H Club members from all over the County hold their Achievement Day as well as being the showcase for school work from all schools in the County. Quite a number of Seneca residents are Directors of the Fair and one of them, Thomas Hyslop, is the President of the Fair for this centennial year 1967.

FAMILY FAVORITES

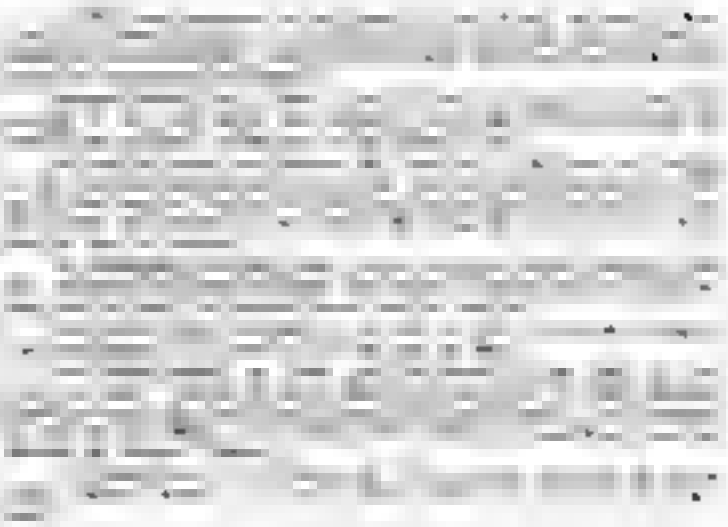
Edited by Mrs. John H Wells



867 — THE BIRD FARM — 1867

SOUTHWRIGHT FARM

THE BRADT FARM



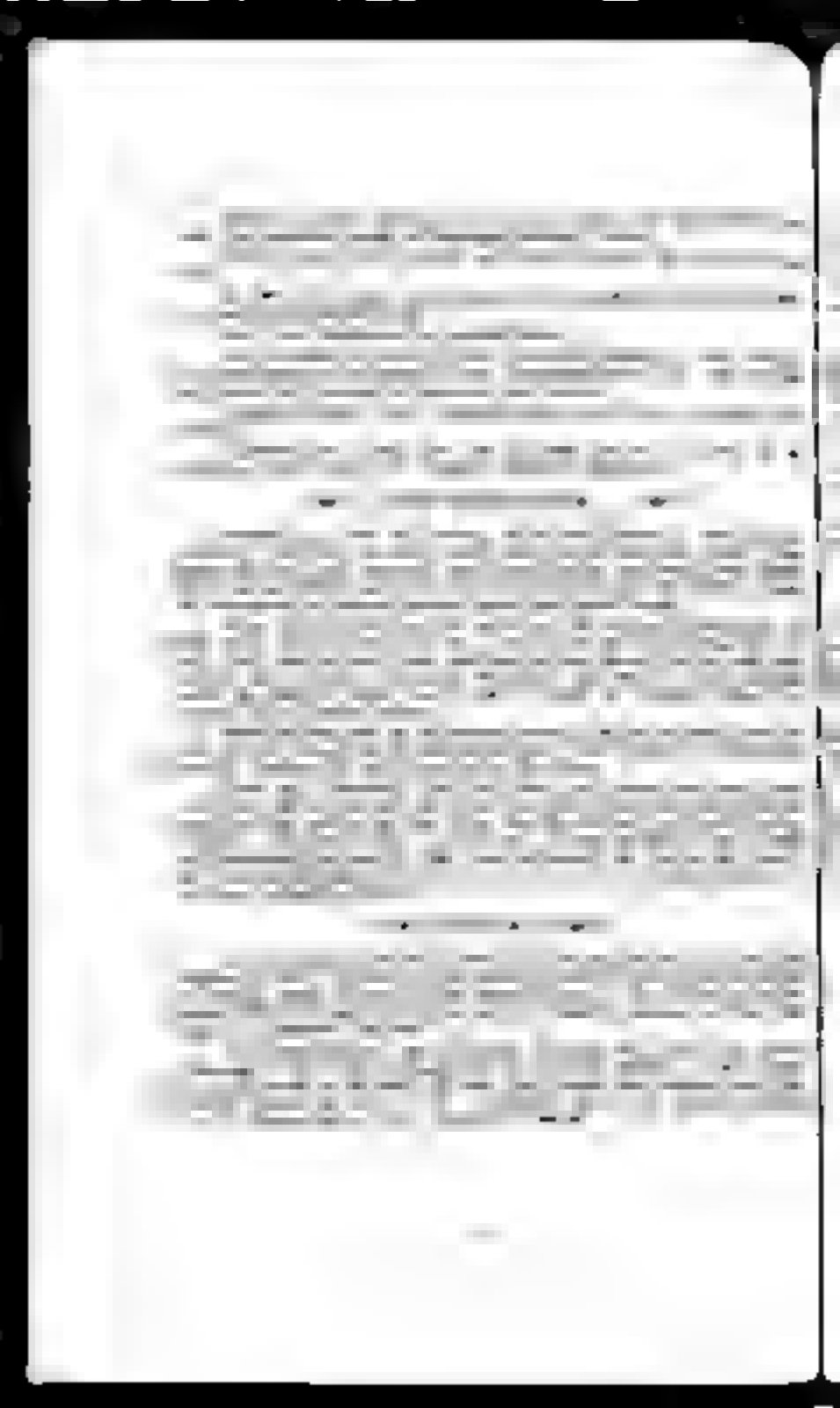
THE BROWN TRACT

THE CLARK FAMILY

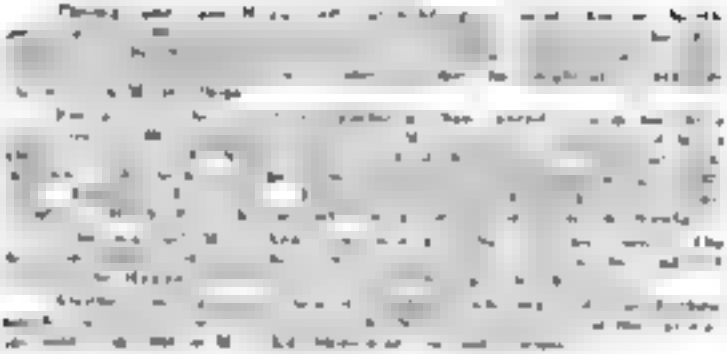
THE COWIE FAMILY

THE CUMMINGS FARM

EAST SENECA



THE HAGAN FARM



HAMMOND-BERRY FARM

Henry Harris
1802 - 1870

Maria Phillips Harris
1805 - 1895

THE HARRIS FAMILY

Henry Harris of Welch origin settled in New Brunswick about 1811 at the same time as the Phillips who came from Ireland. Wilder settled there. In 1834 Henry married Maria Phillips in New Brunswick. Six years later they moved to Canada. Settled in Oxford township.

Henry Harris and his wife had a family of seven. Sarah Ann Mrs. Jame[illegible] Maria Mrs. Edward Edwards another daughter Theophilus William George and Samuel.

As each son married, he was established on an adjoining 100-acre farm.

The name Harris is derived from the French personal name Henri which in England was pronounced Harry and Harris. They have a coat of arms. The crest is a hedgehog or porcupine on the side with key.

THE HEWITT FAMILY

On July 15 1858, an orphan girl was made to Edward Hewitt native of Ireland. The girl was [illegible] of [illegible] on [illegible] Township. The family included Edward, Jacob, John, Thomas, Sarah, Robert and Jane.

Jacob remained on the home farm, having two boys, Walter, named the Hewitt Bros., still [illegible] where he [illegible] with Jacob's other son, Mark, sold his property in 1967 to Merrickville [illegible]

THE HOWLEY FAMILY

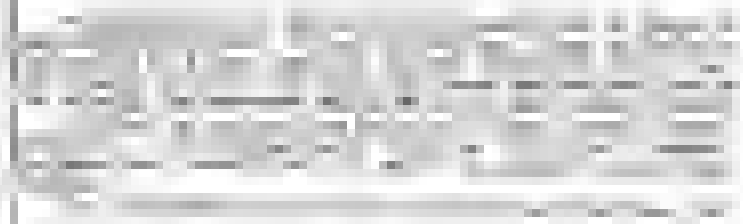
THE HUDSPETH FAMILY

THE HUTTY FAMILY

1867 — HYSLOP FAMILY 1967

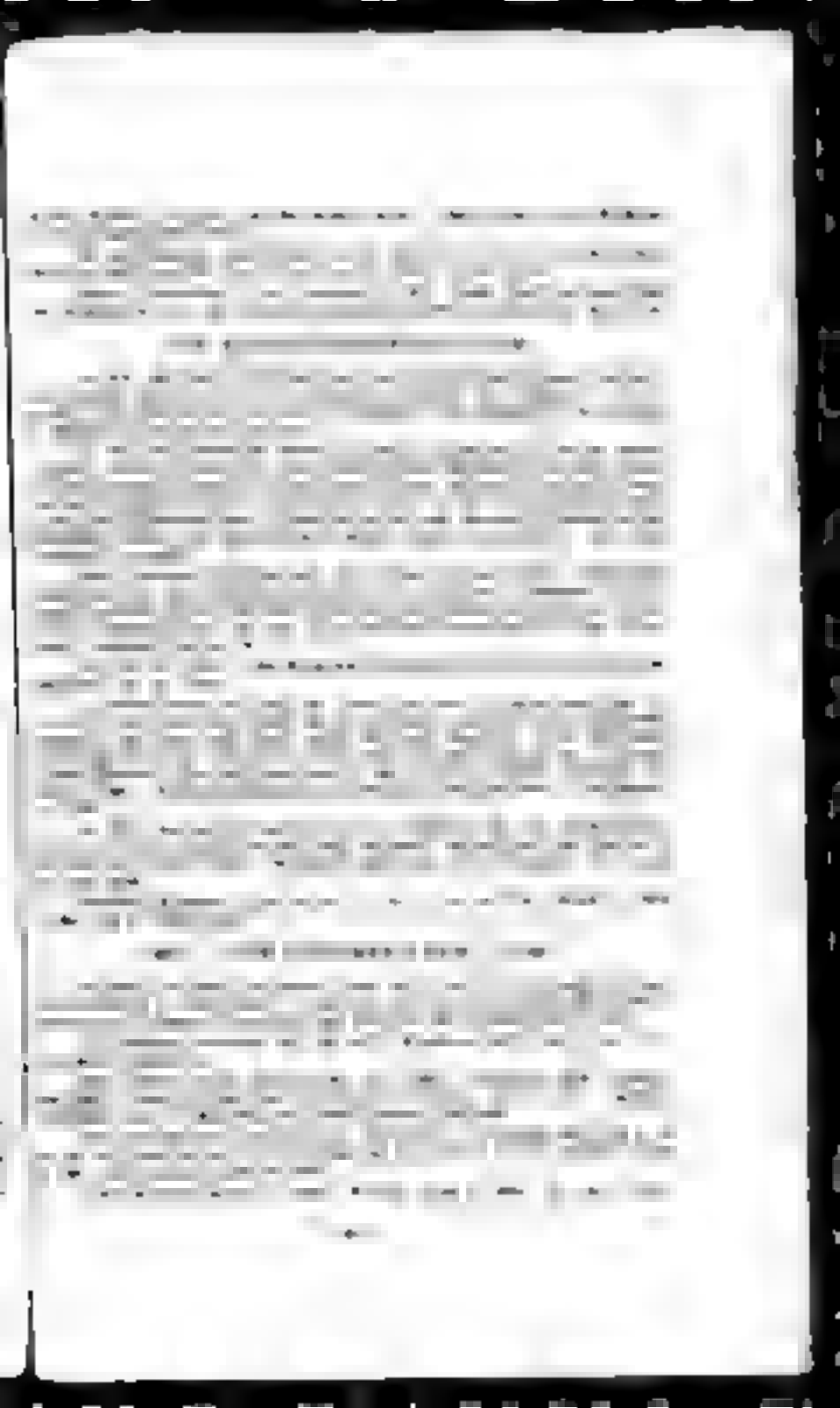
THE ARVINE FARM

THE JOHNSTON FAMILY

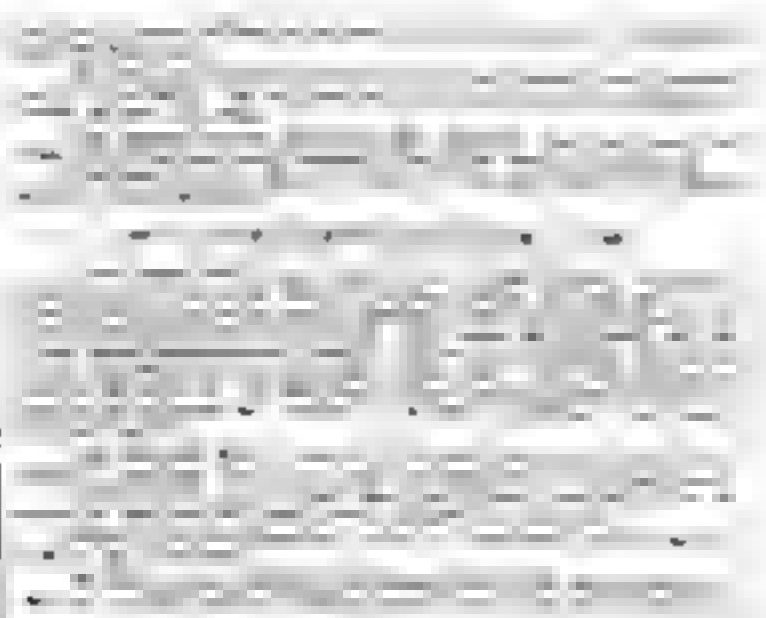


THE KELLY FARMS

1867 THE KERR FARM 1867

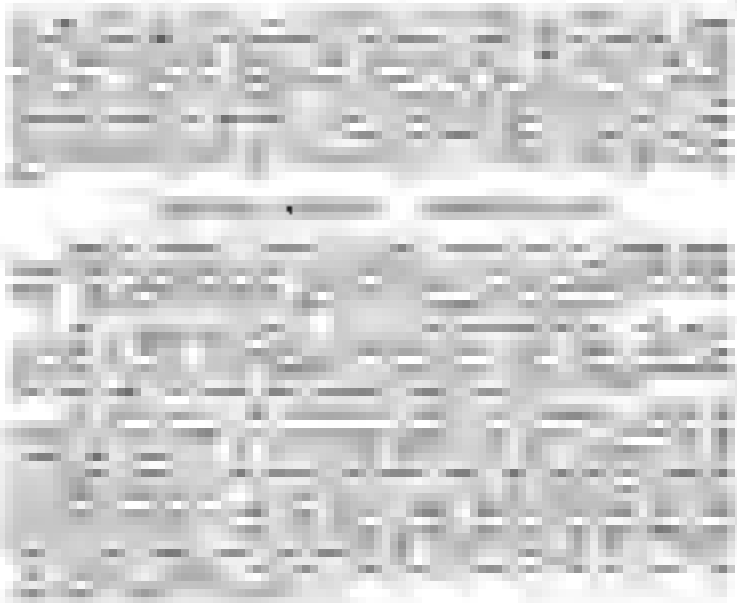


THE LINDSAY FAMILY



867 THE LUSK FARM 1967

THE MARSHALL FAMILY



THE McALPINE FARM

THE McCLUNG FAMILY

THE McKIBBON FARM

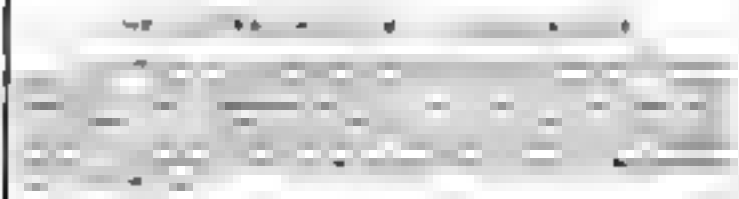
THE MOORE FARM — THIRD LINE

WALNUT BANK FARM — 1967

The Red House, 1794

of St Catharines
[illegible], who taught school [illegible]

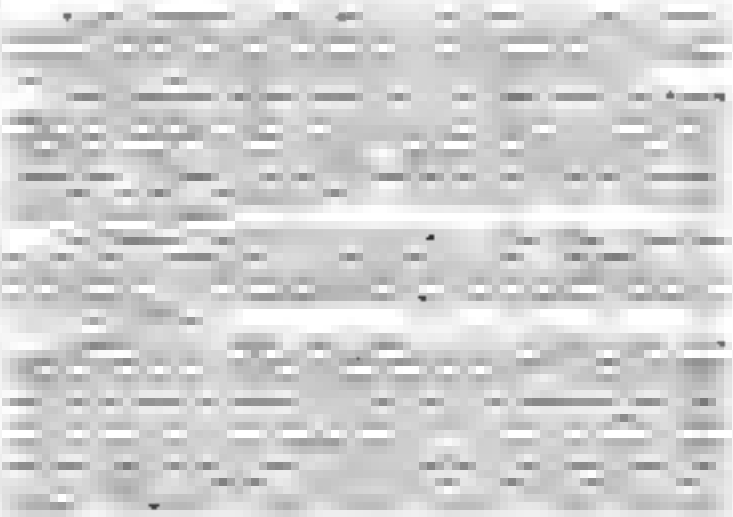
THE PARKE FAMILY

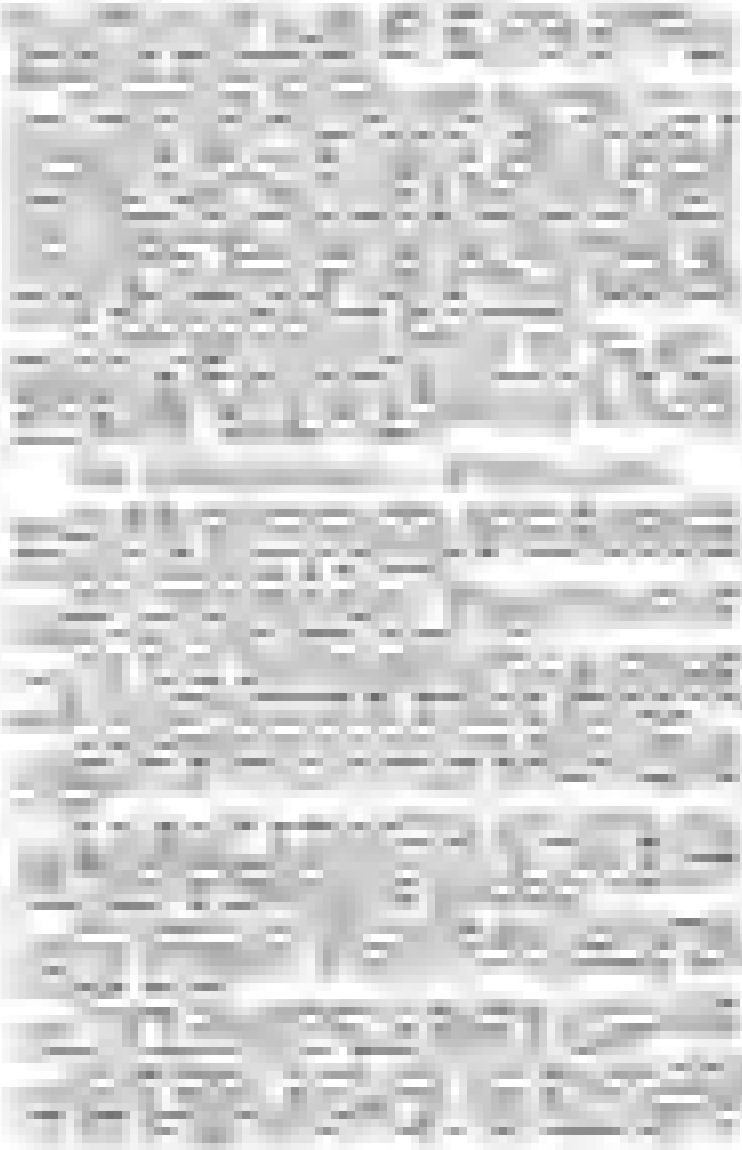


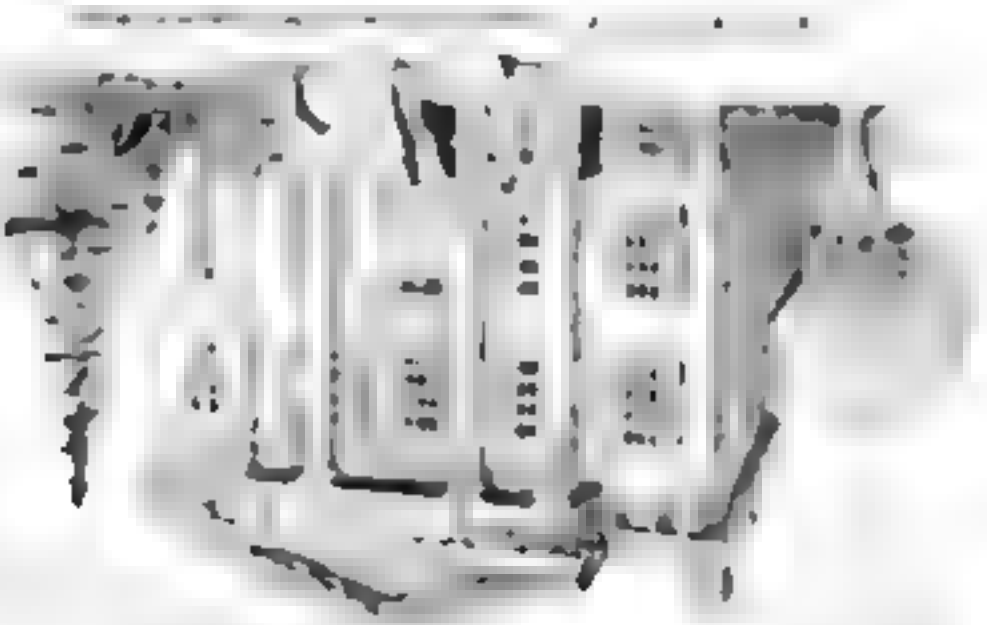
THE PETCH FARM

THE OVEREND FAMILY

THE THOMPSON FAMILY



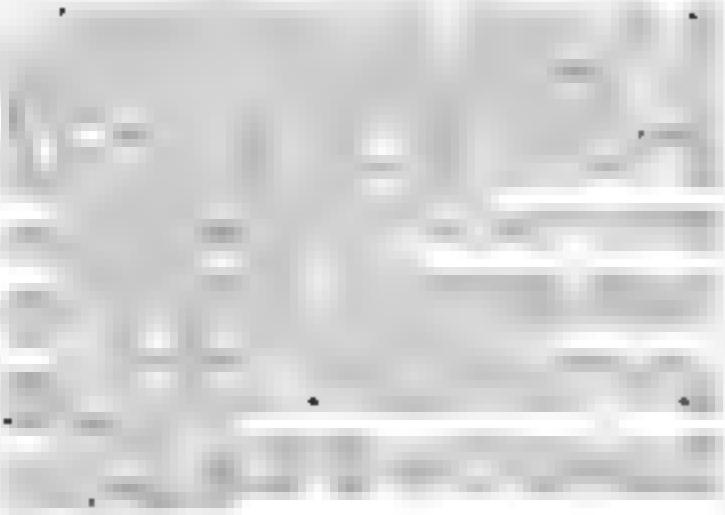




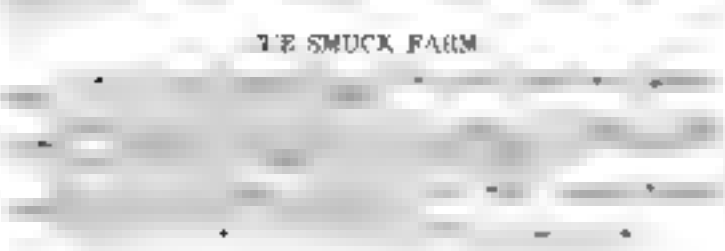
Thompson, wa
[illegible] months a

R[illegible]THVEN TENANTS

THE RICHARDSON FAMILY



THE HOLSTON FAMILY



THE SMUCK FARM

THE STONEMAN FAMILY

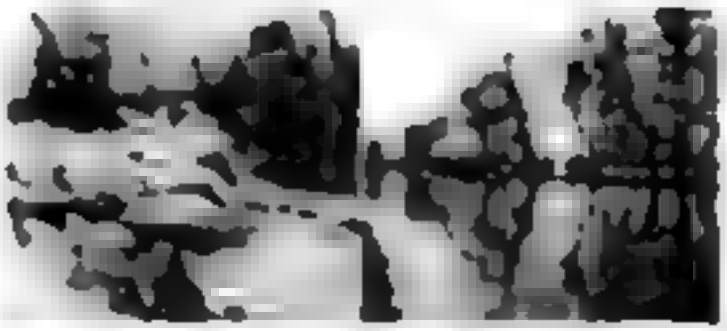
867 — THE URIE FARM — 1967

THE WEYLIE FAMILY

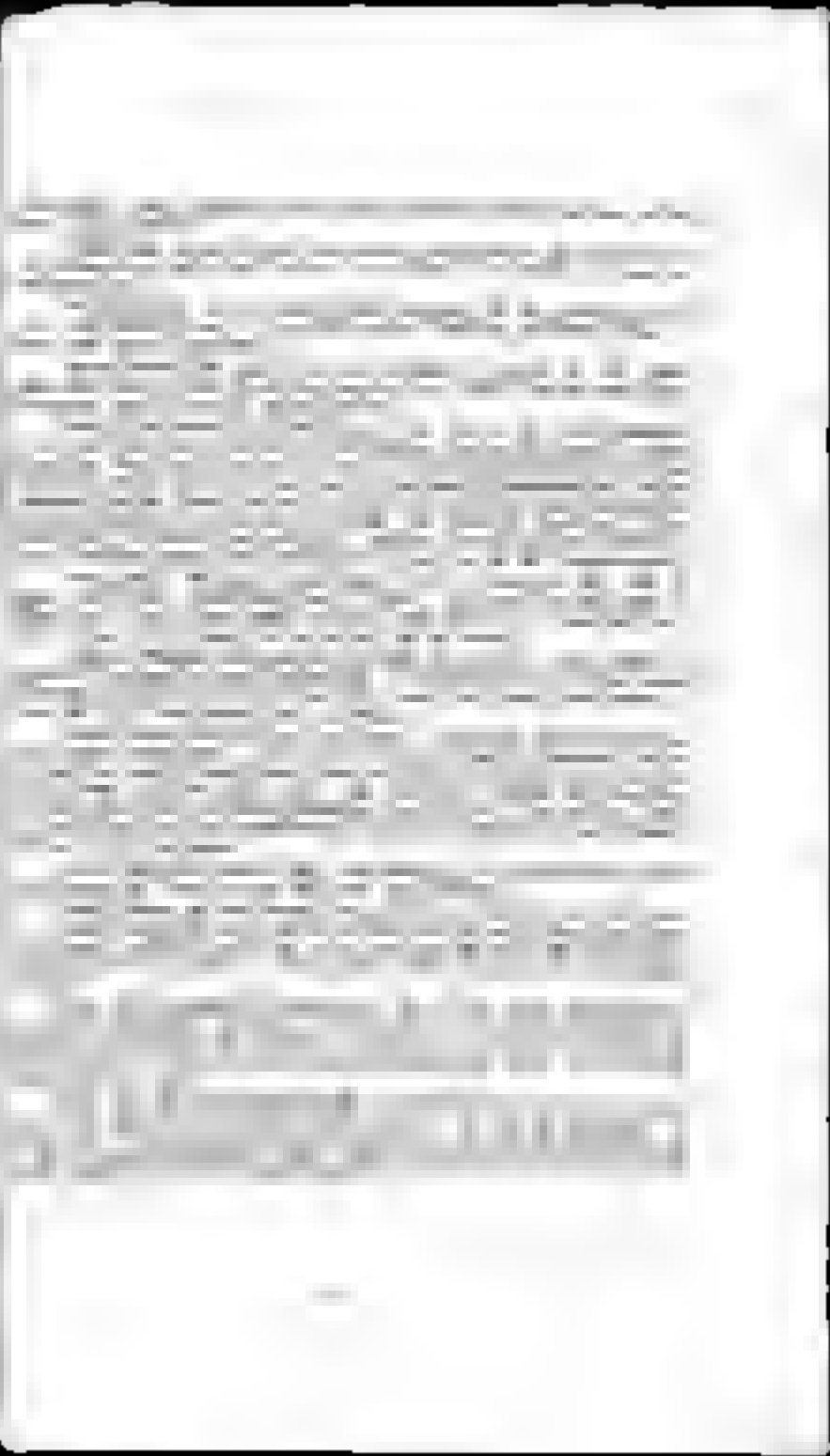
1867 THE WICHER FARM 1967

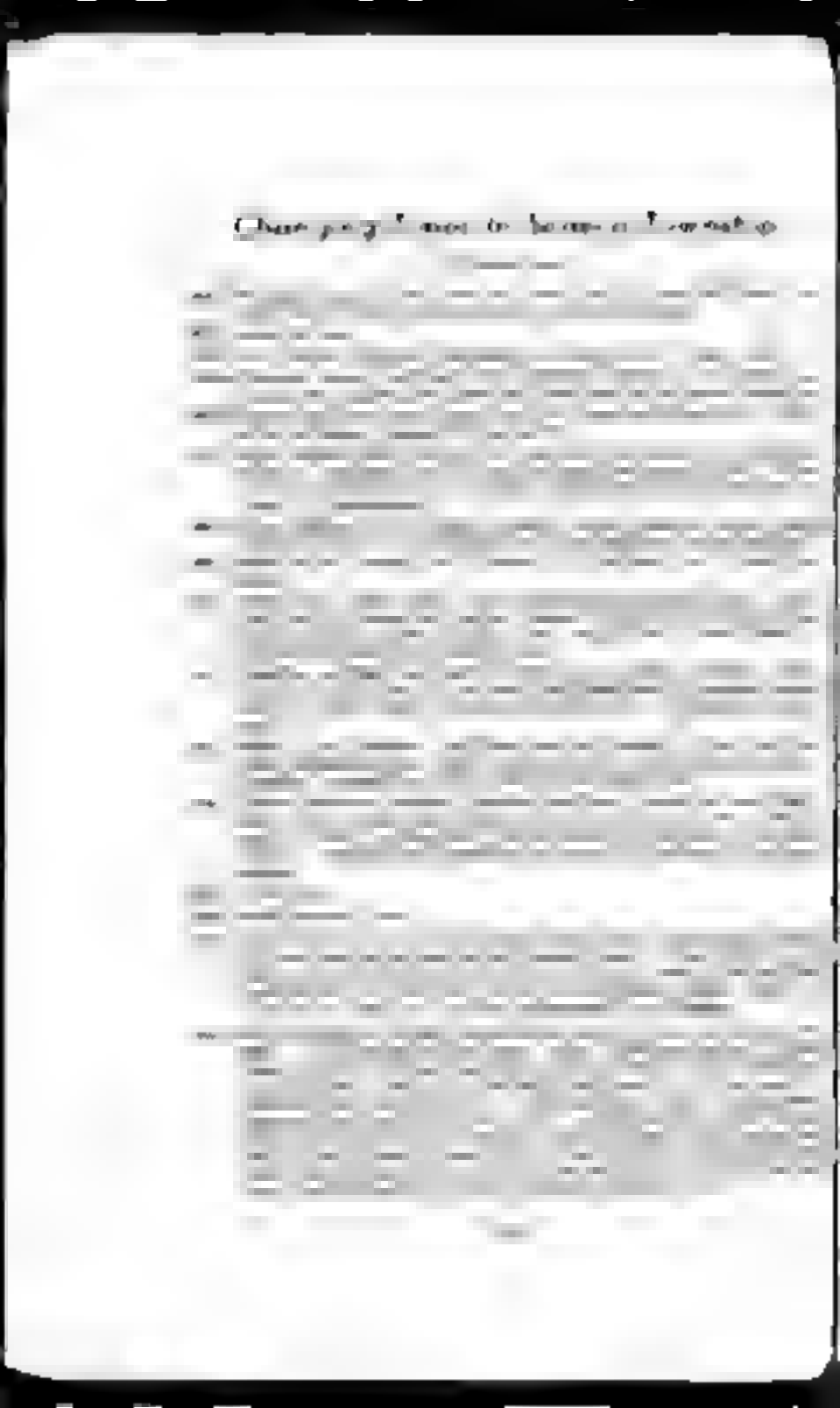
MILLFIELD HOUSE

THE WHALEY FAMILY



The Grand River





1950—More milk shippers whole milk and powdered milk factories more pigs central school 957 public school buses trucks on farms telephones County Centennial 1950

1960—Many farmers work in industry as well as farm large poultry units most farmers buy eggs and many buy milk stable cleaners diesel tractors, hydraulic tractors and implements practically all children go to school for 12 years large pig barns on family farm new type of barn some insulated and built by contract no more changing of work by neighbours large farm holdings credit buying bigger mortgages county debt $6,000,000 Zoning by-law building by-laws Population 2500.

1967—Canada Centennial

•

"THE NEXT CENTURY"

The world grows smaller every day
But Canada grows bigger as each one of us holds out the hand of
Friendship and understanding
To our neighbour
And to the new-comers

•

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The Valley of Six Nations Charles M Johnston
Lincoln County 1856 1956.
Tweedsmuir History Binbrook Township 1948.
Beckwith Tweedsmuir History
Caledonia Tweedsmuir History
A Short History of Caledonia
Jim McCullough and Mabel Burkholder Spectator
Ontario Agricultural Commission. 1881
Gazeteer of Brant and Haldimand 1867
Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Haldimand. 1879.
The Early History of Haldimand County Russell Harper
Haldimand County 1785 1905. by Rev Robert Bertram Nelles
Grass Locks Tweedsmuir History

NOTE The poem "Heritage" on page 64. was written by L. Mona Whitwell

THE TOWNSHIP OF

SENECA

HISTORY

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1867-1967

A History of Seneca

- SENECA CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Robin Kerr Chairman Mrs John H Nelles, Secretary and Editor Mrs Adam Marshall Mrs Mac Stoneman. Mrs Walker Heuley and Miss Kathleen Moore

•

Thanks

The Seneca Centennial Historical Committee proudly presents this book The Committee wishes to extend sincere thanks to all who have helped in any way to supply information, prepare items and check the final copy

A special thanks is extended to Mr Murray Kilman for his contribution in art work which has added greatly to the appearance of the book and for designing the cover

This is the first attempt to print the history of Seneca Township, so it has taken much research The history is far from complete and there may be some errors but the committee has tried to the best of its ability to get the true facts.

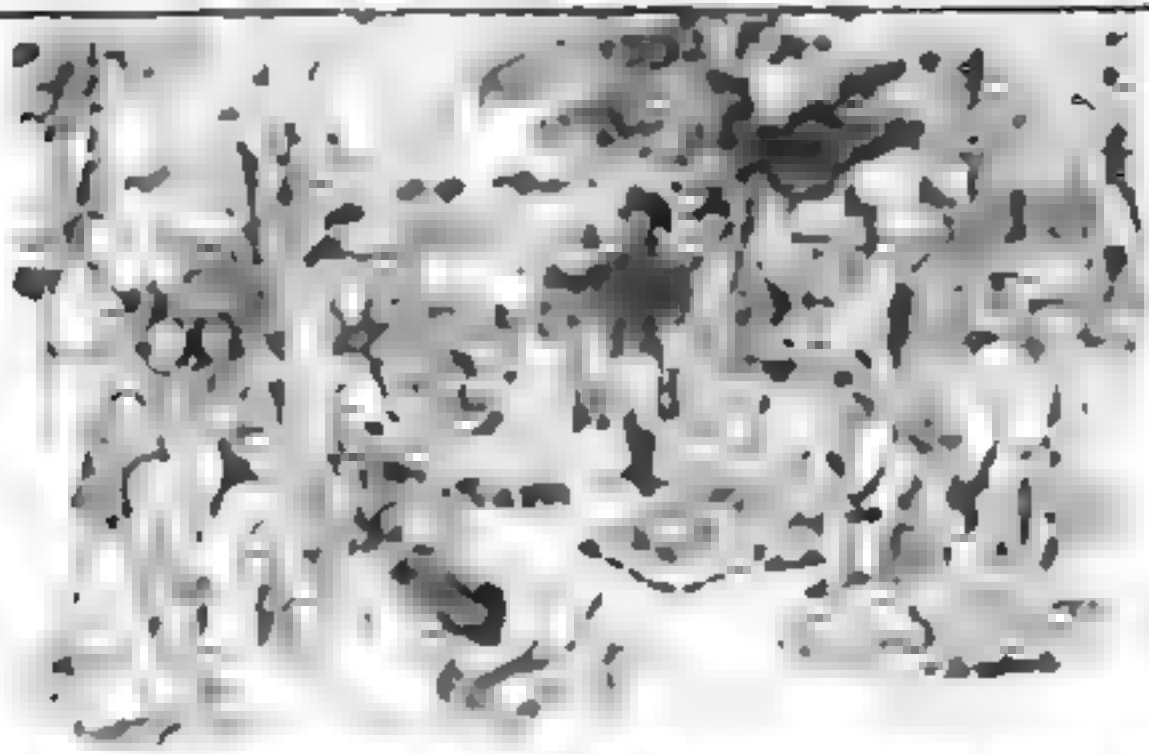
•

Foreword

The Township of Seneca is a land where little more than a century ago the Grand River passed through almost uninhabited wilderness.

This publication is an attempt to record early history pioneer days the development and the achievements of the Township, and also something of the people of the present day who wish only to leave this land to those who will follow a better place in which to live.

Sincere appreciation is extended to all who have contributed in so many ways in making possible this the first History of Seneca



in Seneca Township

known as the Ouse River

ribe

with the following inscription was unveiled

THE HALDIMAND GRANT, 1784

white settlers."

settlement of Onondagas near Caledonia

white men met there with Governor Simcoe

The Haldimand Grant of land was in dispute for many years, until 1822.

Settlement was slow until about 1832 when the land for the new Township of Seneca was purchased from the Indians and the Grand River Navigation Company began operations

Then the Senecas and Onondagas gradually moved to the land which the government reserved for the Six Nations across the river, and the people mostly from England Ireland and Scotland flocked into Seneca Township where they made homes, cleared the land and began the development of the country

The money that the original settlers paid for their crown deeds to the Indian Lands Office was set aside for the benefit and support of the Six Nations.

SETTLEMENT OF SENECA TOWNSHIP

— THE YOUNG TRACT —

od with the Indians

the Ruder Rangers

— THE NELLES SETTLEMENT

THE NELLES SETTLEMENT, 1785

hill and back to the jog in the road at John Youn

THE MAJOR HENRY NELLES MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

Nelles Settlement 1785" on September 18, 1906

— THE VILLAGE OF SENECA

is included in our history

There is a Methodist Church in the Village

County

fall of the Grand River Navigation Company

— SIMS LOCKS —

was a dam with a fall of 8½ feet across the river

[illegible] opened by [illegible] was near the [illegible] house [illegible] and was a stable to hold a change of horses for the stage coach

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] business or employment

— SIMS LOCKS W.I.

[illegible]

[illegible] others

— SIMS LOCKS FARM RADIO FORUM

[illegible] was incorporated into Rural Learning Association

[illegible] evening

1845

building and were responsible for the settlement

from Brantford

Company, merchants."

ale operates the store at present

dressmaking establishment

er The mill was opposite Martindale's store

York before going north

placed in 1965

a skating rink until it burned down before 1930

pund came to enjoy the day of fun

early 1900's

York school and half to Anderson School, Oneida

handed in 1923

ing plants for the area

SENECA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION –

In January 1962 Bruce Edwards was appointed president of the Seneca Athletic Association. After three years Ray Stroud was appointed president.

The association sponsored girls and boys baseball and boys hockey. They [illegible] years in the [illegible] Hockey was [illegible] Mr. [illegible] one of the managers and coaches of the various teams.

Turkey banquets were presided by the boys mothers [illegible] in 1965-66 [illegible] Members of [illegible] Hawks 1965 Bantam and in 1966 [illegible] both of the Leaside Major [illegible] awards were presented.

In 1966 the Novice and Bantam teams won the championship of the minor hockey house leagues.

The York Girls' Ball team formed in 1961 won the Hammond [illegible] in 1964 [illegible] and [illegible] in 1965 and the Bantam A [illegible] in 1966. They have been honoured at banquets in 1964, 1965, and 1966.

— ENNISKILLEN LODGE, No. 185 —

York Enniskillen Lodge received its charter on 1867 exactly 100 years [illegible] The [illegible] Monday of the month on the [illegible] of the [illegible] Lodge was [illegible] and [illegible] in 1925 by right he has been [illegible] by Mr. [illegible] Members who have served [illegible] years or more are [illegible] Rainey, Rebmann and Ken Beath. Ben Mann [illegible] in May.

Previous to 1867 there was a [illegible] Lodge in York.

YORK TEEN TOWN — 1959-1966

Teen Town dances sponsored by the 1st York Scout Committee and St. John's Men's [illegible] in the St. John's Parish Hall [illegible] officers and managers on Saturday night and to raise money for the Scout Committee.

A. Ian Mathews was in charge of the dances and Herb Martindale [illegible] the group. Ian [illegible] as a [illegible] Jack Young and the late Fred Young were some who were on hand at once.

In August 1960 the teenagers entered a float in the Dunny Derby [illegible] was a [illegible] and [illegible] was very [illegible] They won two prizes. They also ran [illegible] a Jaguar two weeks later.

1st YORK CUB AND SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE

In 1919 C. J. Martindale started a boy scout troop. The troop has [illegible] and [illegible] was [illegible] and when he resigned [illegible] was [illegible] and [illegible] and Norman Brown. The officers appointed were Fred Thompson, Chairman

Norman Smith Secretary William Moore Treasurer John Peart, Vice President and Arthur Mathews camp committee. St. Johns Anglican Church was the sponsoring body in 1958 the first Scout and Cub parade of Haldimand County was held in York of the St. John Anglican Church. The annual banquet was held in the Hall at which Lorne Cleaver was the guest speaker. The present committee is Josie Shannon President Arthur Mathews Vice President Harold Shrock Secretary, and Shirley Young, Treasurer

Jack Brenzel served as Scout Leader from 956 to 965 with much assistance. Many parents have been a faithful assistant for many years. The boys who became Queen Scouts were Lyle Brenzel Harry Godward Tom Singer and Carl Thompson

The Cubs have received excellent leadership Mrs Wm Moore served as Akela for 20 years and Sheila Williams Hedley from 1958 to present. In 1965 the Cubs won the Haldimand Shield at field day in May and in 1966 they were second

•

— FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE —

The Federation of Agriculture was organized in the county in 1941 and in each township a branch formed. Early Hewson Egan Latimer Arley Lachlan Walker Hedley were Hedley and Sheila Williams have served as branch organizers. The present Hedley Secretary are Ivan Brown R. L. Moore Vice-Chairman. Ron McKenzie Secretary John A Turnbull

•

— THE GRAND RIVER MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE —

The following trustees P. A. Noles, M. Richardson A. Turnbull J. Bain John Watson W. E. Hall Wm Clark Jr. Wm L. Thompson J. Jeffery Spencer A. W. Mitchell and J. Stacey met at York. As a result on April 5 1875 the Grand River Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized with Watson as President and Mr. Fred A. Noles as Secretary Treasurer with head office at York. The amount of insurance in force was $100,000.00

It is still in operation in the same street with the present insurance of $200,000.00 in force. Mrs. Gordon Douglas was secretary treasurer for many years being replaced by Mrs Walker Hedley in 1950

•

— INDIANA —

When David Thompson settled on his 200 acres of land at Grand River Rapids or Indiana in 1832 he quite of the wanderings became a recluse of hunting and trapping because he was one of the original shareholders and promoters of the Grand River Navigation company which was responsible for the development of Seneca and Onondaga township

A dam was built 12 feet high across the river from Cook Point provided power for many saw mills and the navigation canal for boats. Many people were employed the population rose to 250. A ferry here was a bridge at the river on Indiana Road to Garnet Road, Oneida. At other times there was a ferry

A swing bridge across the canal was operated by Mr. Young and family.

Thomas Lester brought [illegible] week. [illegible]

The [illegible]

[illegible] Cayuga and Caledonia by Mr. Jacob Wigg.

[illegible]

— RIVERSIDE BRANT NORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE —

[illegible] Howden—District Director, were the first executive.

[illegible]

[illegible] novating Green's Community Hall.

— GREEN'S COMMUNITY HALL —

The history of the Hall [illegible]

[illegible] of pupils with more men than women.

[illegible]

members happiness in a new home

— WELCOME COMMUNITY CLUB

— TYNESIDE —

Tom Gillan, James Duncan and George Tyler

BLACKHEATH —

[illegible] who succeeded his father Mr John Bates

[illegible] bowser have been built there

[illegible]

— BLACKHEATH ATHLETIC HALL

[illegible]

— BLACKHEATH W I. —

One of the early and influential organizations to flourish was the [illegible] Mrs [illegible] and Mrs [illegible] Hall.

— BLACKHEATH LIONS CLUB

BLACKHEATH LOCAL ASSOCIATION GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

ary 1966

s Tawny Owl

23 1957

Canada

— SINCLAIRVILLE —

good water supply and transportation

aforementioned frame Methodist Church

[redacted]

19 5

•

— EMPIRE —

[redacted]

Robert Gill kept post office also

[redacted]

•

THE LOYAL ORANGE LODGE, No. 29 SENECA —

[redacted]

or failed to return at night with the lodge

[redacted]

held 3 miles from Caledonia

[redacted]

munity affairs and garden parties

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

ago. Matthew Riley is the present master

LADIES ORANGE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, No. 533, SENECA

On April 3 1923 a meeting was called at the Orange Hall there
ine. Seneca, to organise the L.O.B.A. No. 533

The officers were elected with Mrs. Jas. Robinson as Worthy
Matron

The meetings are held on Tuesday evenings on or after the fu
moon [illegible] of July. They have
membership and the Orange Home at Richmond Hil
a home for 75 children

The charter members were Jas. Robinson
[illegible] and Annie Wright

Mrs. Reuben Kerr has been appointed Worthy Matron for 1927

— COOK'S STATION —

The name was the local appellation of Cook's Station which was
ed by [illegible] Mr. Hen[illegible] Mr. Cook
ship

The oldest house was a [illegible] before 1852 by Mr. Wm. [illegible] and
section man who came to the hamlet in 1908

When [illegible] became [illegible] Mr. Wm. [illegible] of the [illegible]
Station

Mr. [illegible] and Bill [illegible] an Irishman had stores

Almost all the lumbering and saw mills became the property of Mr. Wm.
village diminished in size

— THE HULL SAW MILL —

When lumbering was the chief industry in Seneca township there
was a [illegible] Mr. Wm. Hull [illegible] Mr. Hull's
Hull Whaley farm [illegible] Whaley farm was owned by Wes. Hall.

In the vicinity of the saw mill there was a hamlet of 4 houses It
was once a very busy spot

The Story Of The Churches In Seneca Township

by Mrs. Walker Hadley

he old Talbot road route

a build ng could be erected for that purpose

not survive the 1800's

Seneca West, Seneca and others

— UNITY —

did the masonry work

United Church Women of Unity —

— FISHER'S —

of fir trees

SENECA —

Ratchford was the parsonage

eca Church when it was in operation in the 1860's

— ZION —

ZOAR

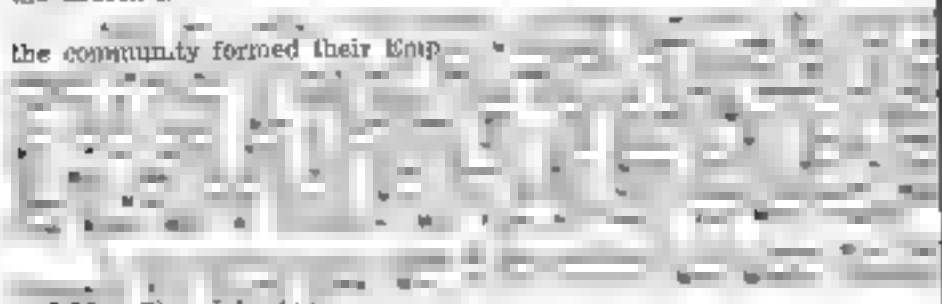
EBENEZER

— Empire Mission Society —

the First World War

olyan
church, etc in
names on it The money
piano for the church. In

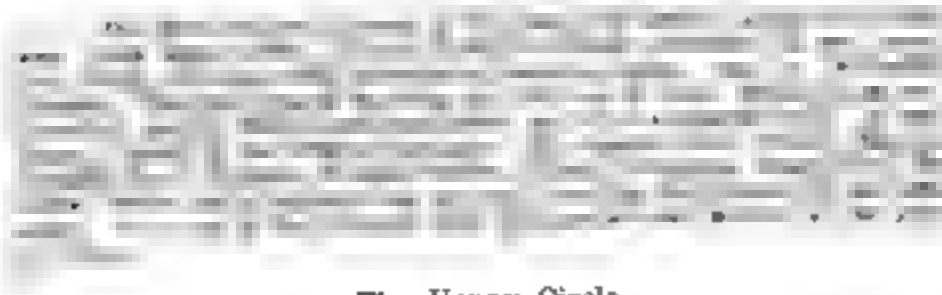
the church in 1948



the community formed their Emp

and Mrs. Glen Johnston

SINCLAIRVILLE



— The Happy Circle

East Seneca Church - 1863

EAST SENECA

Sharpe brought it up to Union in 1925

by the Township

Mrs Geo. MacDonald and Mrs. Glen Overend

— TYNESIDE —

events were evidence of their popularity

— Edwards Cemetery

— BLACKHEATH

The first [illegible] in this district were a small Presbyterian church [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] members of the [illegible] at present chaplain at McMaster University

— Mission Band —

On February 23 [illegible] [illegible] and Mrs. [illegible] organized the Mission Band. Mrs. Russell Spittal is the present leader

— C.G.I.T. —

In [illegible] the C.G.I.T. was organized. Mrs. Stewart Young is one of the leaders

United Church Women of Blackheath

An active women's auxiliary [illegible] was formed in [illegible] with Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] she married [illegible] [illegible]

In March [illegible] the Women's Association was formed with Mrs. [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] meeting was held on March 14 [illegible] with Mrs. Vera Cummings as president

Funds are raised by [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] missionary work and projects in the church

YORK UNITED CHURCH

York [illegible] had its beginnings back in the earliest [illegible] of the area [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] known as the second [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

In [illegible] [illegible] bought a parcel of land [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] The [illegible] [illegible] of the present

oot-bridge and a ferry had been used in crossings

Primitive or Wesleyan Methodist

minister was Rev. Fa...s

resided in the manse at Oneida

United Church Women of York

the church

support of their church

Canadian Girls In Training

[redacted]

allies

answers not lucidly expressed

Paul's Anglican Church, Caledonia

buggies

when it was replaced with an electric organ.

Cemetery

housand feet from the river on the flats

service for forty-eight years. Present day officers are

St. John's Men's Club, York

evenings

shed one at York and one at Dunnville. The Dutton School building at York was purchased from the municipality when York Public School was taken into the Central School system.

The newly formed congregation consisted of 23 families and the first pastor, Rev. [illegible] Hoytema served both the York and Dunnville churches. The original church building was built in the spring of [illegible] and was used as a church and meeting room. In 1954 this building became the home of the York church and the manse was moved to and now stands next to the church. There is also a very active Sunday School which plays a very important role in church life.

The name of the church has undergone changes to its present name, Dutton Christian Reformed Church. It was organized and is serving Him by preaching salvation in Christ Jesus alone. Rev. [illegible] has been pastor of the church since the fall of 1954 and Rev. [illegible] the assistant pastor. Rev. [illegible] is the pastor for the Dunnville church. The church has a membership of about [illegible] families with [illegible] baptized members. The church has many of its own and also has to its credit several missionaries in the field.

Dutch Elder Ladies Society

There are a number of active organizations in the church and one of these is the Dutch Elder Ladies Society consisting of the older ladies who speak their own tongue at the meetings. The English Ladies Society is composed of the younger women who speak English. Both societies meet once every two weeks and both work for the betterment of their church.

Other societies of the church include a Young People's group, a Dutch Men's Society, a Girls' Club for girls, a Boys' Club for boys, a Young Married Couples Club and a Young Men's Bible Study Group.

The church boasts a very fine library of which Mrs. H. Bakker is librarian.

INDIANA

When David Thompson was building his empire at the village of Indiana on the Credit he built a grist mill which later was to be here. He was a pioneer dream but it did not be used by other generations after it was not to be used by the early settlers and it was left to the ravages of the years and the waters used to build the Leaitch house now occupied by Walter Armstrong.

Records tell us that a Roman Catholic church also was built in the community.

ST. MARK'S CHURCH

About 1900 a church which has been torn down was rebuilt on the [illegible] by the Methodists in the Methodist Church No. 1. The church [illegible] A picnic [illegible] services were held. The building is now the property of Orange Lodge No. 29.

HILLCREST CHURCH OF THE NAZARINE

About four years ago the church of the Nazarine purchased the Welcome school on No. [illegible] highway and transformed it into a church

known as Forest. The minister is Rev. Russell T. Davis. Besides the services, Sunday services they have mid-week prayer meetings and missionary meetings the fourth Wednesday of the month.

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE

CENTENNIAL YEAR—On July 30, 1967 a combined church service held in Jordan, Ont. under the direction of the three York churches, Anglican, Christian Reformed and United was a Centennial effort.

EDUCATION

by Mrs. Adam Marshall

EARLIEST EDUCATION IN SENECA

Grimsby April 9th, 1829

Mr John A. Nelles

I was informed by Mrs Crooks you were in want of a schoolmaster on the River. I now offer you my services in that capacity for the term of twelve months commencing from the 1st of May ensuing or as soon as you can get ready and send me word I will be over. The conditions will be on the same footing that our teachers have here which are moderate. I saw your father last week. He thought you could easily get 30 scholars and thereby assure me the Government allowance of pay. The board ing to be free and the board I will be with your father. It will be requisite and proper to appoint trustees to see to the wants etc of the school, to the payment of the master and to the payments of his board. Some of our teachers boards from the employers house to another free but I could not think of it. I wish to deserve and you can mention to the employers that I will leave nothing undone to bring on their children agreeable to my charge and to merit both their money and approbation. In the event of an agreement between us I think that if you were to meet me at Tetreberry's or Hamilton on a given day I would ride up in my wagon as far as that with my trunk and could be over in yours with you. I have an abundance of writing on hand just now so you must excuse this scrawl. With Mrs Crooks and family respects to Mrs Nelles and family and to all enquiring friends and to Mr Joseph Young particularly whenever you see him.

When you receive this send me your answer. I am Dear Sir

Yours very truly,
W Crooks

Mr John A. Nelles,
Grand River

This is a copy of a letter still in the possession of Mr John H. Nelles. It was not completed in an envelope but folded and sealed. It bore no stamp. It would have been carried by a runner up the old Stoney Creek Trail which reached the Grand River at the Nelles home. At the time 1829 Seneca was not settled except for the Nelles and Young blocks. Surely there were enough children in the area to employ a teacher and the above was the first application received for the position. Apparent

[redacted] and there

one being in existence in the early 1800's

1845 and one in 1846, two in 1853 and one in 1854

Class and 2 Third Class.

— SENECA VILLAGE SCHOOL -

[redacted]

times for the schools in the township

[redacted]

good teacher

U.S.S. No. 1 GREEN'S (GREENE'S) –

from the records of Mr Arthur Cowse

[redacted]

school approximately around the year 184[illegible]

for it to make it lawful
and somewhere in

Thompsons, Richardsons, Cowles and others

n the old schoo

Hydro was installed in 1938

points at Seneca Field Day

S.S. No. 2 WELCOME

from the Log Book

farm owned by Mr Enoch Thompson

S.S. No. 3 & 5 BURROWS' -

boarding-houses in the homes of the pupils

school

material to aid in teaching

aided Mr McClung and the schoolboys Albert Hussack, Paul Stoneman and Earl Burrows in planting the trees

Central School in February 1957 as Principa.

S.S. No 4 SIMS LOCKS

from the School Logbook

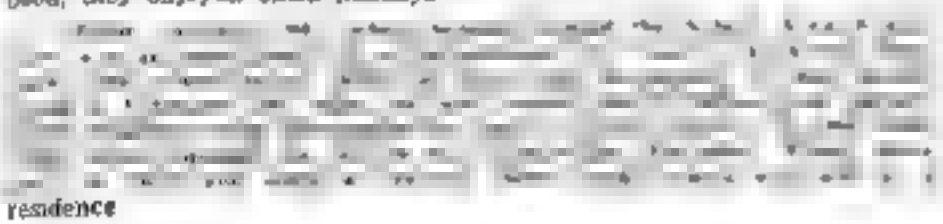
He was teacher of the Men's Bible Cl

about 1936

at Seneca Central School

:944

flood, they enjoyed extra holidays



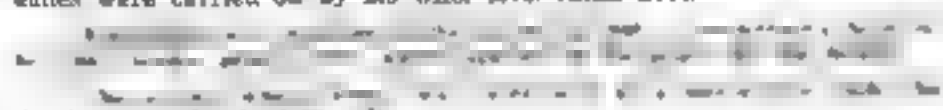
residence

S.S. No. 6 PETCH'S

from the School Log Book

the south, with new slate boards

duties were carried on by his wife, Mrs. Allan Scott



Steel City Riders' of Hamilton

S.S. No 7 YORK

Mr Harry Young believ[illegible]
on the corner of his property [illegible]

Mr Rodorick McClean was hired [illegible]

[illegible] eats, desks
[illegible] as the teacher
[illegible] rly days were
[illegible] Davis, George Hacon, James Nelles. William
Parker, and A A. Davis

S.S. No. 7 was $95.29.

[illegible]

Bradt both received all their [illegible]

pupils and teachers alike

— S.S. No. 8 INDIANA

From the Account and Minute Book of the School

copy of a letter written is as follows

Indiana, February 5, 1861

Thos. Walsh,
Teacher, Woodbridge, P.O.
Dear Sir,

the year Please let me know immediately

Yours truly.
D Thompson

Murdock was employed as collector of fees

first lady teacher in 1866

Shipway was custodian

school followed by Miss Isabel Dise

S.S. No 9 EMPIRE -

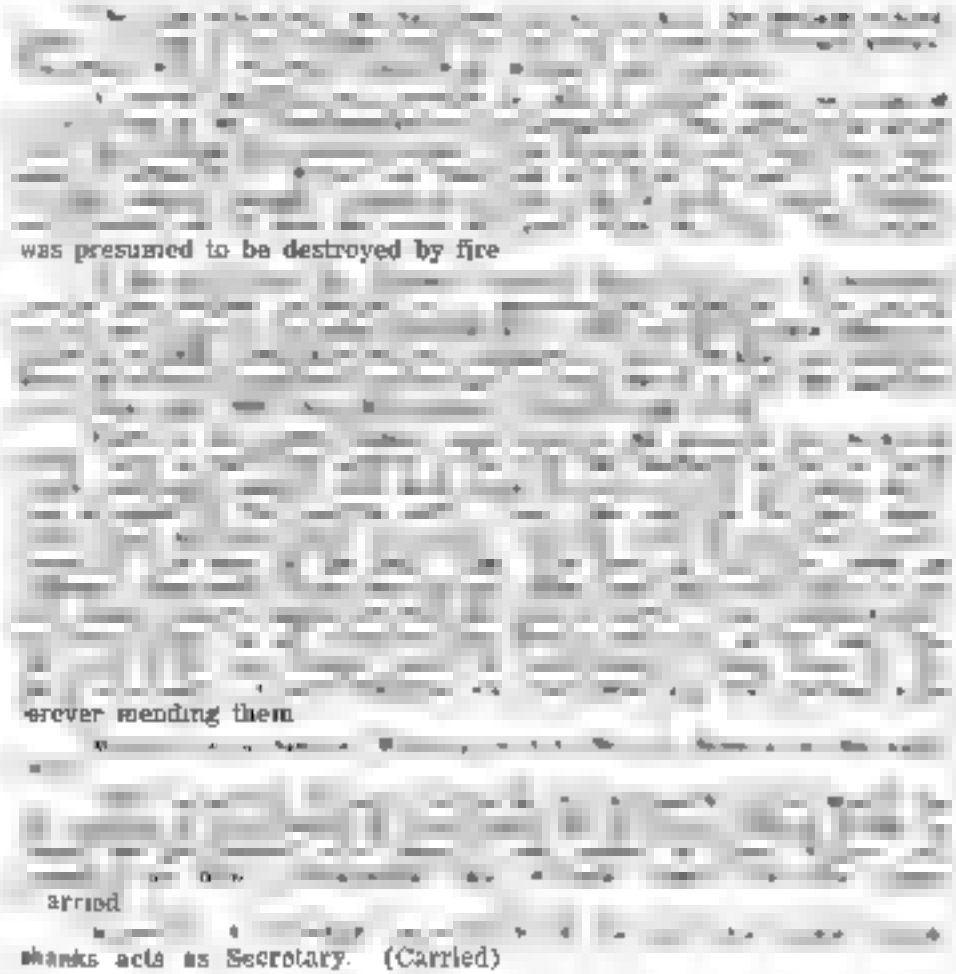
from an address by Harry Howard

Mr Robert Johnston

ninety-seven in April, 1967

S S. No 10 LUSK S

from records of Mr John Turnbull



was presumed to be destroyed by fire

erever mending them

arried

hanks acts as Secretary. (Carried)

quarter (Carried)

– S.S. No. 11 –

Information supplied by Mr Patrick J Long

Thomas Bird and Fred Overend

Overend, Walsh, Martin, Spencer and Brooks

Mary Mullock

— S.S No 12 —

From information gathered by Mr J A Elder

horses on sheets.

Macdonal is recalled

Ranak Tubbs

converted into a house.

Wesley Hedley

— S.S. No 13 COOK'S

Information supplied by Mr W Mair

[illegible] Young [illegible] Young Tract. It was a brick school built by Mr. Baker from Cayuga.

[illegible] Geo. [illegible] [illegible] parts of [illegible] and [illegible] using one school.

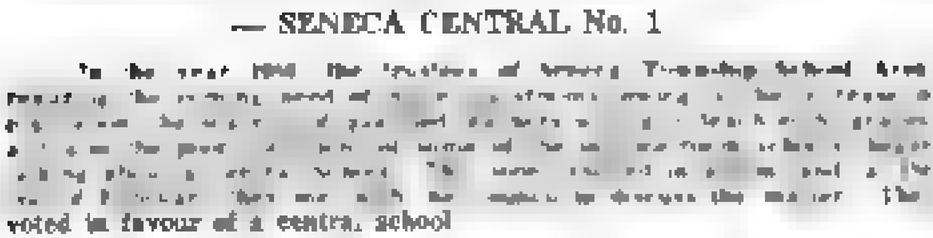
[illegible] James Baker [illegible] [illegible] Arthur Hale, Miss Martha Foster and Mr. James Scot.

[illegible]

Mr. Hall [illegible] grandmothers, a joy to behold.

SENECA 2A

In [illegible] a school was begun [illegible]



SENECA CENTRAL No. 1

In the year [illegible] the Trustees of Seneca Township School Area [illegible] voted in favour of a central school.

Mr. W. W. Allen was engaged as architect and ten acres of land [illegible] of Empire Corners.

P.S., worked in close co-operation with the Board

General Proficiency — A. A. Leckie

cost of approximately $120,000

Institute served refreshments

an Art Bursary made yearly by Riverside W.I

SCHOOLS IN GENERAL —

Unity

office is open at all time
progress of their children

By Bruce MacDonald

s county meet at the Farmers' Picnic in Kohler

as the outstanding tournament player

what is now the core of the Yorkette Ball Club

greatest number of points

entral capturing the school trophy. Central also ha

Gisal, Marlog

Seneca Unity has commenced an intramural sports program involving year round competition in most phases of outdoor sports.

Sports have certainly come a long way in the township, the old mixed ball games to the present scheduled zone games, from the pick up games of skating on the unsafe ice of the old creek to the pre arranged games of hockey and broomball on the artificial ice surface of Caledonia arena.

Staff in 1967 at Seneca Central

Mr. Barry Dear Principal
Mrs Amelia Tomlinson
Mr. James Kulins
Mrs. Muriel Hanson
Miss Elaine Brutlocca
Mrs Margaret Banks
Mrs Mary Turnbull
Miss Doreen Johnston — Principal's Supply
Attendance — 328

Staff in 1967 at Seneca Unity

Mr Ed Burnside — Principal
Mr. Bruce Macdonald
Mrs. Mona Whitwell
Mrs Muriel Creighton
Mrs. Marie Kerr
Miss Jean Sharp
Mrs Marjorie Marshall — Principal's Supply
Attendance — 180

The first Principals Mr Milbert Mount (entral and Mr Richard Lawrence (Unity) had a vast amount of work in the organization and administration of these new schools. Both were raised into secondary education as the Cayuga Technical and Commercial School. Their successors Mr Barry Dear and Mr Ed Burnside have continued to an equally competent manner. Having worked with most of these gentlemen the writer can state that they have shown a certain dedication to the schools in the best interests of the girls and boys of Seneca.

— TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA —

Township School Area

The Board of School Trustees of the Township School Area of the Township of Seneca was formed in December 1966 having jurisdiction over all schools in the Township. Members of this first Board were: F. H. Lindsay (Chairman), Allan Scott, Secretary-Treasurer, R. N. Moore, Andrew Jackson, Oliver Young, Morley Johnston.

As early as 1873 Mr. Harcourt recommended a Township Board as a something which will give a great & beneficial and an immediate impetus for good for our Public Schools. In formerly he stated which I surely highly desirable and worth ever increasing efficiency can in all these points be obtained by the system of Township Trustees.

From the minute book of Indiana school a circular dated November 13, 1873 from Hon. Adam Crooks, Minister of Education in reference to Township Boards of Trustees was received and discussed. The general opinion was adverse to any change from the present system.

Members of the School Board are elected by the voters of the

Hyslop, Mrs. Aileen Scott, Secretary Treasurer

SUPERINTENDENTS

From files of Mr T R Brown. I P S

reported on the schools as follows

power to give certificates to teachers or annul them

bay while the sun shines'

— INSPECTORS —

Education in the Mowat Government

to sleep for a couple of hours

politics, he was made a provincial appointment

1864 to 1942

SEPERATE SCHOOLS —

School established in Cayuga

– SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR SENECA PUPILS

When elementary school was completed Seneca pupils could attend two High Schools or Grammar Schools as they were first known one at Cayuga, begun in 1851 and one at Caledonia, begun in 1853. At that time in Caledonia part of the Public School was used for a Grammar School. When the accommodation became insufficient for all pupils, in the winter of 1874 a new Grammar School was opened in a room over Dr. Burns' office on Cayuga St. It was here that Mr. Clarke Moses came as a teacher.

An addition of four rooms was made to the Caledonia School in 1877 one room of which was used for Model School and the other three for High School. In that year, there were sixty in attendance at Caledonia High and forty at Cayuga High. In the Model School that same year there were 12 teachers-in-training in the fall term and 13 in the spring term. One of the duties of the County Inspector was to lecture in Model School.

It is interesting to note that a former Prime Minister of Canada taught in Caledonia High School for one year. This was near the end of the nineteenth century and in 1911, Mr. Arthur Meighen returned to Caledonia no less a person than the Solicitor-General of Canada to speak on behalf of the Reciprocity Treaty.

A new High School was built in Caledonia to be opened in 1924, with Mr. T. J. Hicks as Principal. Mr. Hicks had first come to Caledonia in 1913 and many Seneca girls and boys attended during his term of office. Mr. Otto Clark is principal in 1967.

With the opening of the new Technical and Commercial School at Cayuga in 1963, secondary students of Seneca are divided between these two schools according to the courses which they choose to take. The Principal at Cayuga, Mr. Gordon Saunders, taught in Seneca for some time at the Locks. The Supervising Principal of both these schools in the West Haldimand District is Mr. Ernest Smith.

Military History of Seneca Township

By Robin S. Kerr

and service of many of its people

the war

ment made plans for their removal to Canada

to be a perpetual home for the tribes

Henry and Daniel settled on these two tracts

Militia and other units in the Niagara area

ribution to the British Cause in the War

on them, and get an escort of cavalry

quarters at York

In 1867 was A. W[illegible]amson of York

the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada

Its towards the east as a back stop

United States

WORLD WAR — 1914-1918

W A Young

in various units of the army navy and airforce

Leslie Smith, and Alex Stearman

Patricia Young (Mrs. Frank Young

Infantry Brigade with the rank of Brigadier

Squadron 1.4 in defence of Warsaw

held the rank of Flight Lieutenant

in Seneca Township on part of the Neles Tract

Federal And Provincial Government

provinces — Upper and Lower Canada

divided the province into 19 counties

River Tract

first given numbers and later names

much before that of early settlement

for judicial affairs

Warren — 1830-32 and William H Merritt — 1832-40

1858-63, and David Thompson, Jr — 1863-67

Charlton, 1952-62; and Hon. Laurence Pennell, 1962-67

mentioned later

Norfolk in 1934

Political History of Haldimand County

By Kathleen and Isobel Moore

the same as at its organization

death in 1851

Court of Seneca

making friends and confounding his opponents. When he attended one of Brown's meetings held in a barn Mackenzie asked if Brown would allow him to speak after he was done. He got his consent and promised not to interrupt and asked the same courtesy which was granted. Brown spoke three hours without interruption but Mackenzie was not speaking five minutes before Brown was on his feet. During one of his interruptions a cat [illegible] in the barn started bawling. Then Mackenzie turned to Brown and said "I protest against this one of you at a time if you please." Brown did not dare to open his mouth again at that meeting. Mackenzie was a master hand at getting jokes on his opponent.

When Wm. Lyon Mackenzie was campaigning in Haldimand County he made his headquarters with the Kinnear family at Cheapside. On one occasion when he was leaving for his home in Toronto he presented the Kinnear children with New Testaments. Judge Helen Kinnear presented one of these to the Historical Society at Cayuga where it can be seen at the present time.

In 1863 David Thompson son of the former member for Haldimand was elected by a majority of eleven votes over Laughlin McFarlane of Stromness after the days voting. McFarlane was afterwards heard to remark in his broad Scotch "Ah! If I had only spent another hundred I'd have had Davey."

David Thompson was successful in the first election after Confederation in 1867 and again in 1872 [illegible] 1882. In 1872 and 1874 both general elections he was returned by acclamation. He died in 1886. His son Colonel Andrew Thompson was elected in 1900 but defeated in 1904.

The Colonel's son Major Drew Thompson was appointed Master of the Black Rod in the Parliament Buildings Ottawa. On his retirement he settled in his home "Arbrossan" overlooking the Grand River just west of Ruthven and became a well known person in the surrounding districts. He passed away in 1961.

At the present time Haldimand has two worthy representatives Hon. Lawrence Pennie as Senator (General) in Ottawa and Hon. James A. Allan who was Minister of Highways then Treasurer of Ontario and is now Chairman of Niagara Parks Board.

Seneca which is five pounding mostly still continues to take an active part in the political history of Haldimand County.

TOWNSHIP OF SENECA COUNCIL — 1967

SEATED—Glen Howley Morley Johnston. Reeve Clayton Smith Deputy Reeve
STANDING—Eric Lindsay Clerk Bruce Whaley Mrs James Troubridge Treasurer Jack Young Bruce Edwards, Road Superintendent

Municipal Government in Seneca

Materia. supplied by Mr Harry Young

and Alfred Brown, clerk

again. They have always met at York

until 1867, when the present system was adopted

charge of the roads

dollars and cents

tax levy for public school purposes

from one to two years

sheet for each month was $150. to $250

[illegible] James Urie — 1896 Wm J Ramsay [illegible]

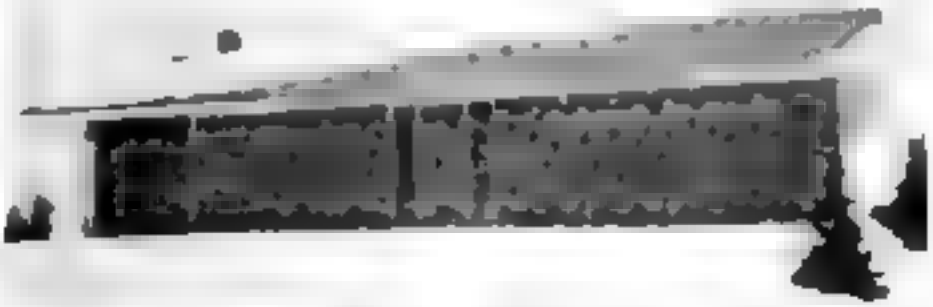
[illegible] 1921 Robin Kerr 1935, and Frank B Bird — 1946

[illegible] 1962-67

[illegible] who have served as road superintendents

[illegible] 1850 to the present day which is quite complete

[illegible] municipal offices at York



[illegible]

July 29, 1967

[illegible]

By Mrs Mae Stoneman

and descended it in a canoe

drawn by oxen were used

times

by the Company's dam at that point

necessary to rebuild a number of them

pried off

a bridge was built across the river at Seneca

stages ran between Caledonia and Cayuga daily

weather

across to Canboro and eastward to Niagara

to replace the wilderness

the centre of business

Grand River grant in 1832

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] ever by the County and tolls abolished

[illegible]

COMMUNICATIONS

[illegible] ville

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible]

[illegible] the stage for many years

[illegible] Seneca Station

[illegible] station for a small fee

[illegible]

Mellon and they operated their own store. the telegraph was moved to their store and Mrs. Mellon continued as operator The call letter for York was "K" It was useful during elections to obtain the results and was used by Mr Lew Burr-s. who shipped horses from the west and many other purposes

HERITAGE —

Within this book of history
Are deeds you will recall
Foundations for the future
To be yet lived by all.
This year's our nation's birthday.
A century of life.
The birthday of this nation
Had been a bitter strife
This township can remember
When blood and life were spilled,
When land was cleared by Loyalists.
When virgin fields were tilled
As pioneers lived so bravely
Their hardships one by one.
Did questions rise within them?
What heritage for my son?
This heritage they gave us
Of hope, of will, and pride.
Of love of land, of freedom —
For this some sons have died
Some sons grew old, and also
Gave sons our soil to till
Now, though they lie forever
Ancestral bloods flow still
And though our Seneca Township
Boasts changes from the old,
This heritage they gave us
We'll never let grow cold
A nation's hundredth birthday!
In centuries to come
What heritage will we have left
The future Seneca sons?
A love for God, for country,
For doing each his best
To be within Canadian
Have faith, He'll do the rest

TOWNSHIP OF SENECA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

SEATED—Mrs. Mac Stoneman, Milbert Mounk, Chairman, Robin Kerr, Mrs. John H. Nelles, Secretary, Mrs. Walker Hedley.

STANDING—Eric Lindsay, Bruce Edwards, Mrs. Adam Marshall, Miss Kathleen Moore, Mrs. Murray Killman, Murray Kinman, artist, Jack Brenzil, building contractor, Morley Johnston.

is a reassuring picture

advised to study reforestation

also shipped. Oak was also used for ship building

walnut became fashionable for furniture

Grenzil. assessor 1929-34

plant in Canada adjacent to the Alabastine Co

he Canada Plaster Board Co

was often used to help pay the farm taxes

Many homes use gas for heat and cooking

of the finest gas services of any in Ontario

way Seneca in 1900

operates a restaurant with his service station

Agriculture In Seneca Township

Material supplied by John Turnbull and Howard Young

and built fences of stumps, later rails

finally tractors supplied the power

munity life

1785 1829 - 1867 1900 1930 1967 Time marches on. The

with modern conveniences available to all

Thompson's farm

owners of Caledonia Tractor Co

under the name of Caledonia Tractor and Supply Co

Co

Edgar Smuck, both of Highway No 6

July 14, 1966

DAIRYING

Miss Mary Hutty's "Century House" on Highway 6

farm homes to the local cheese or butter factory

and the consumers' containers were filled

which about 1500 people attended. He had a herd of 40 milking cows In 1936 he commenced pasteurization of milk

In 1944, Mr Phipps purchased the property of Mr George Miller where he built a dairy with a dairy bar and moved his business from the farm. He then bought milk from farmers in the district About 1956 Mr Phipps sold the business to Mr Ron Harrison who still supplies Caledonia and district with bottled milk

Fairs

The Haldimand County Agricultural Society was formed in 1834 when it received from the Governor General a donation of 5 pounds Since then annual aid has been received. In 1854 the Seneca and Oneida Agricultural Society was a thriving organization and Fairs were held annually at either or both of these villages After the decline of these two villages the fair was moved to York which was then the largest urban community in the County. and many people today remember with nostalgia the Fairs at York

York Fair was known as the Western Branch Agricultural Society In 1867 the president was Isaac Geddes, Indiana and the secretary was Fred A Nelles, York Also in 1867 the president of the Haldimand Co. Agricultural Society was David Thompson, Indiana and the secretary was Jacob Young, York In 1900 York Fair was absorbed by Caledonia Fair

The only Fair in Haldimand County is now held in Caledonia for three days each year and has become a big attraction in the County It started in 1873 This is where 4-H Club members from all over the County hold their Achievement Day as well as being the showcase for school work from all schools in the County Quite a number of Seneca residents are Directors of the Fair and one of them Thomas Hyslop, is the President of the Fair for this centennial year 1967

EARLY FAMILIES

Edited by Mrs John H Nelles

purpose of this publication

sentation for the space available

valiant pioneers who have gone to their reward

and had chosen law as his profession

ade at Hill House farm

ormer Henry Ince farm

Jackson farm now owned by Harrman Bakke;

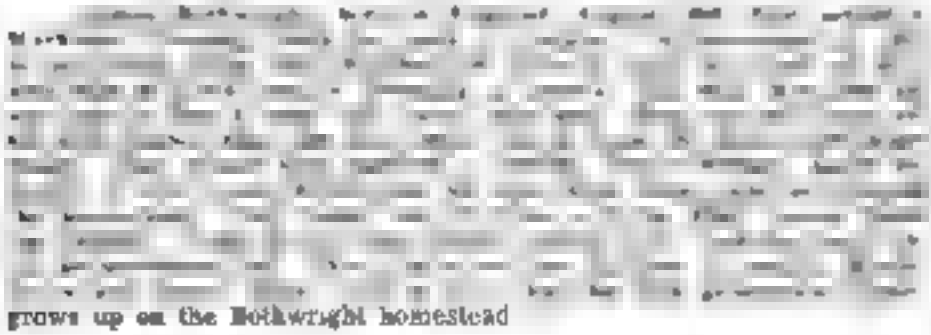
Emerson Fox

Florence, married Bert Peart
farm which was sold

1867 THE BIRD FARM — 1967

the farm

BOTHWRIGHT FARM



grows up on the Bothwright homestead

THE BRADT FARM

during the American Revolution

Grand River in the tract known as the Young Tract

large farmhouse of 18 rooms at a total cost of $900

collector for Seneca 1844-51

Wars

THE BROWN TRACT

R, is now living in Cayuga

THE CLARK FAMILY

THE COWIE FAMILY

Not farm.

member of the Seneca council from 1935 to 1945

THE CUMMINGS FARM

Lived where Hugh Patterson now lives

stock dealing

farm to Mr and Mrs. Harry Millen

on the Second Line also

and as reeve from 1947 to 1950

they sought new lands

[illegible] in 1958, and in 1959 the present barn was built

1967 — THE DOBBIN FARM 1967

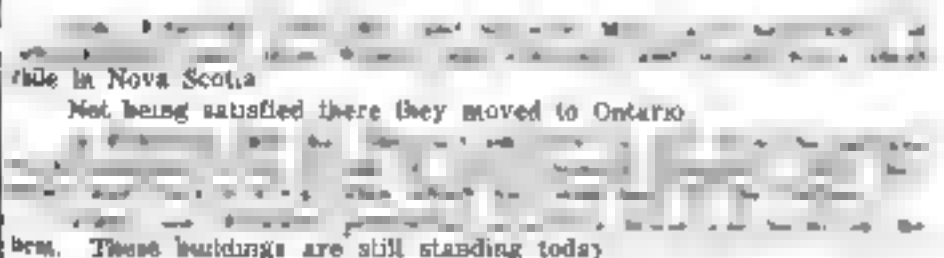
named William, too

ng linens

EAST SENECA

several farms but these farms have new owners now

1967 — THE EDWARDS FARM 1967



while in Nova Scotia

Not being satisfied there they moved to Ontario

barn. These buildings are still standing today

them

Levi bought his father's half

Levi's son Clarence is the present owner

hay straw and livestock to Hamilton and Toronto

1967 — THE ELDER FARM — 1967

account of Six Nation Indians

County Deceaseville was named after his father

children, Jacqueline and Bill

THE GRINYER FAMILY

France to Southern England

Wm J Grinyer served as a councillor, 1896-99

THE HAGAN FARM

Thomas and Jane Hagan left Carrechfergus County Antrim North ern Ireland in 1831 and finally arrived at Brantford They knew they had relatives in the Brantford area but did not know exactly where They visited Hagersville market and accidentally met the sought after relatives who lived in Mount Hope

For a year they lived in Caledonia then rented a farm for three years and in 1835 bought the farm from Mr Harris grandfather of Mark Abbey It was on the Six Nations Tract north of the railway They had eight children John took over the farm in 9 3 Hugh started farming in 921 where Emerson Fox lives Bill farmed where Ed Baker now lives Eventually Hugh Bill Charlie and Tom all settled on farms in Oneida

John married Mary Ann Lawrence and they had four sons The third son John took over the farm on his father's death in 1947 and still resides The Hagan family have occupied this land for 85 years

Another son Lawrence now of Caledonia who married Jean Forbes bought the Haw horne farm also on the Six Nations Tract south of the railway and sold it in 1965 to Mrs Ed Stonehan and son Dennis

HAMMOND-BERRY FARM

In 1847 John Hammond an Englishman paid the Crown one hundred and six pounds five shillings for one hundred acres of Indian land in the Township of Seneca Dis trict of Gore John Hammond had one son Thomas and three daughters Dorothy married Mat hew R hardson Mary Ann married William Whaley and Jane Elizabeth married W am Parke

In 1871 Thomas Hammond bought the farm from his father He and his wife the former Mary Ann Parke had four children William who spent most of his life on the farm Mary Thomas Mary Elizabeth Mrs William Berry), and Beulah (Mrs. Walter Peacock

William Berry came to Glanford Township with his parents from Hanover Ont when he was one year old In 1908 he purchased the farm of his father in law Thomas Hammond Mr and Mrs Berry raised six children Blanche Harold Arthur Beulah Mrs J Perrup Louise Mrs E Ricker), and George

George bought the family farm from his father in 1947

Henry Harris
1802 - 1870

Maria Phillips Harris
1805 - 1895

THE HARRIS FAMILY

Henry Harris of Welch origin settled in New Brunswick about 1800 at the same time as the Phillips family from Carmarthenshire Wales. settled there. In 1831 Henry Harris married Maria Phillips in New Brunswick. Six years later they travelled west and settled in Seneca Township.

Henry Harris and his wife had a family of seven: Sarah Ann (Mrs. James Cox), Maria (Mrs. Edward Edwards), another daughter Theophilius, William, George and Samuel.

As each son married, he was established on an adjoining 100-acre farm.

The name Harris is derived from the French personal name Henri which in England was pronounced Harry and later Henry. They have a coat of arms. The crest is a hedgehog or charged on the side with key.

THE HEWITT FAMILY

On July 15, 1859 an Indian land sale was made to Edward Hewitt native of Ireland. The farm was south half of Lot 9 Concession 4, Seneca Township. His family included Edward, Jacob, John C., Thomas, James, Robert and Jane.

Jacob remained on the home farm, having two boys. Walter farmed the Hewitt acres until recently when he sold the farm to Mr. Fowler. Jacob's other son, Mark, sold his property in 1966 to Merville Johnston.

and Clerk 1833-46

THE HOWLEY FAMILY

stricken with a fatal illness, were buried at

ward and William

Eliza Jane Jennie) Thompson 1893. At first, they

Glenny have three sons and one daughter

THE HUDSPETH FAMILY

peth name continuously for 116 years

THE HUTTY FAMILY

m Hull, Yorkshire.

Peter Hutty

across the road on the former Carver farm

and lived at Walnut Bank Farm

1967 HYSLOP FAMILY — 1967

cleared this farm.

1924-27 and Reeve of Seneca 1928-29

on the homestead

of h.m. he ate all his meals at the Captain's table

community worker until his death in 1900

Anne, the eldest, passed away at age of two

and Rebecca Jane Ince

well that was used over one hundred years ago

THE IRVINE FARM

now before he received the deed to Lot 4

Jim Fetker and they now live on the farm

THE JOHNSTON FAMILY

Carl all reside in Seneca Township

THE KELLY FARMS

and his family live on the Fishcarrier Tract

was reeve in 1904

1967 THE KERR FARM - 1967

settled in Sarnia

Carol, Robert and Nancy

THE KINGSTON HARRISON FARM

of Niagara (for mission schools

England Company

Trunk Railroad, on Lot 34

consisting of 79 acres

ng farm

h April 1946

e the age of ninety-one

1867 — THE LATTIMER FARM — 1967

and three daughters

n 1887. His mother died in 1892

THE LINDSAY FAMILY

was a full-time job

son Eric was born

councillor 1955-63

his family making his home in Seneca Township

born in this house

James for over 70 years

period of over 160 years

[illegible] THE [illegible] FARM [illegible]

boys and 3 girls

of Main St., in Buffalo

.867 THE LUSK FARM 1967

Cook Station was named after the Cook Family

Maud Bennett of Detroit, who is 86

the house came into being

n Smithville and Mrs. Bill Brooks is in Dunnville

THE MARSHALL FAMILY

RICHARD MARTIN — DERRYCLARE

but now reside in Caledonia

THE McALPINE FARM

schools on the reserve

buses but continues to drive a bus.

THE McCLUNG FAMILY

[illegible]

the McClung Road

THE McKIBBON FARM

[illegible]

Kickert

[illegible]

"Roamer" to far away places sightseeing

[illegible]

Hewitt and lives near Empire

[illegible]

[illegible]

1838, John Moore, Mariner).

[illegible]

of the Argyle Street Presbyterian Church

[illegible]

...in Seneca.

[illegible]

...) are daughters of Samuel Moore

[illegible]

[illegible] purchased the two farms south of the home place. Presently [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Moore, Miss [illegible] Moore and Miss Kathleen Moore.

THE MOORE FARM — THIRD LINE

Robert Moore, Sr. took possession of the farm on Con. [illegible] [illegible] Moore [illegible] the year [illegible] Robert Moore [illegible] Le[illegible] were the fourth generation of Moore [illegible] on the farm. About six years ago the farm became the property of George Weatherston.

THE MURDOCK FAMILY

In 18[illegible] [illegible] Murdock married Mary Anne [illegible] in [illegible] [illegible] Northern Ireland. Three years [illegible] they came from Liverpool to New York.

[illegible] after they arrived in Canada they [illegible] in a house [illegible] George [illegible] home now occupied by [illegible] Robinson, Mr. [illegible] grandson.

W[illegible] Murdock, who was [illegible] to John [illegible] and Wm. Richard M[illegible] [illegible] a day. [illegible] They had a family of four girls and [illegible] boys. [illegible] Harold [illegible] lived on the farm until his death. Harold lives [illegible] remained on the farm [illegible] He married [illegible] taught school in Indiana and [illegible] Their daughter, Mary, still resides there.

The Murdock house, built by Richard [illegible] [illegible] and the chamber was [illegible] in the [illegible] behind the house.

1867 THE NELLES FARM, NELLES TRACT
WALNUT BANK FARM — 1967

The Red House, 1796

Walnut Bank Farm was originally known as Red House Farm. It is believed that the house was built in 1796 by William Nelles [illegible]

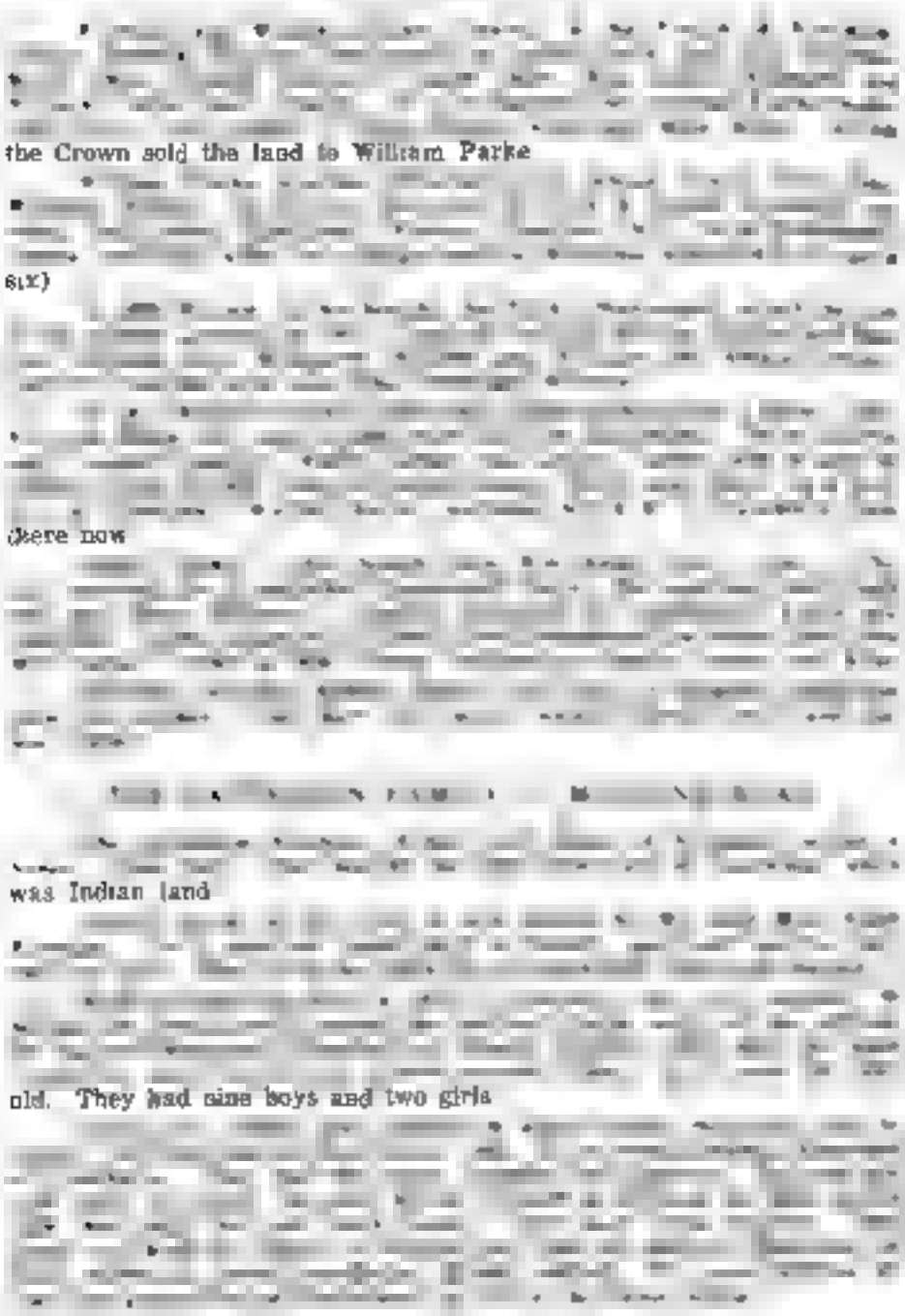
his was able to do much translating

ndian friends would follow his example

natter quietly but the Indian insisted

Person's shot pierced his opponent's lungs

him.



the Crown sold the land to William Parke

six)

(here now

was Indian land

old. They had nine boys and two girls

THE PATTERSON FARM [illegible]

[illegible]

THE PETCH FARM

[illegible]

Mrs Philip Adams (Alice Petch), and James Adams

THE OVEREND FAMILY

[illegible]

THE THOMPSON FAMILY

[illegible]

married Charles Young

[illegible]

the railway crossing

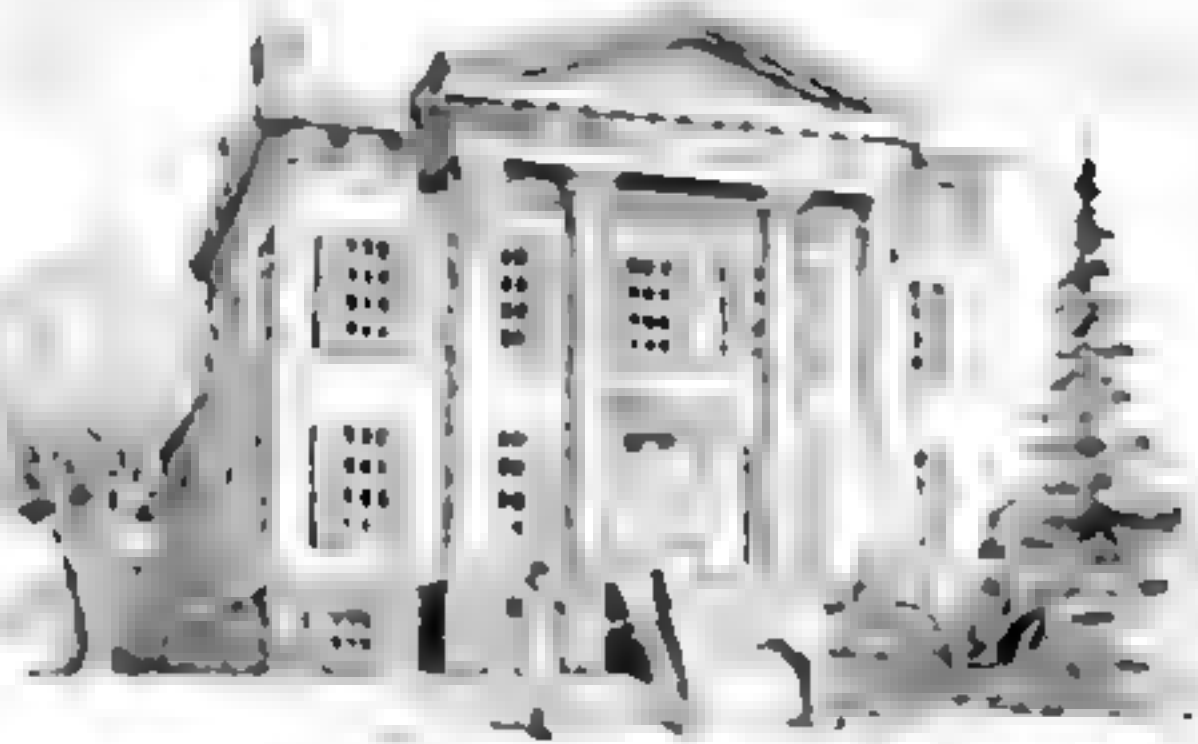
[illegible]

married Gordon Stoneman of Seneca

Antique Preservers Association of Canada

resenting the Royal Family, in this country

overlooking the river



RUTHERGLEN CASTLE. An [illegible] the Thompson Seat.

are about 15 feet high

tooth in 1886

Canada were visitors. The colonel died in 1939

They had no children He died in 1961

His two sons are Walter and Drew

RUTHVEN TENANTS

in the castle as caretakers

family live on the Gilson farm

as caretakers, for a few years

THE RICHARDSON FAMILY

Jemima (Mrs. James Lyle of Seneca and Kezia

fine apple orchard and extensive apiary

Ontario in 1912 Bill Weatherston farms there now

Mabel Parker of Seneca

of John W Richardson

THE ROLSTON FAMILY

THE SMUCK FARM

Plank Road, was granted to John Nolton

his son, Harvey Smuck making this a century farm

established by his father in the early days

THE STONEMAN FAMILY

1867 THE TURNBULL FAMILY 1967

rest of the family settled quite a distance away

a councillor 1947-49

1967 — THE URIE FARM 1967

don on the farm

THE WEYLIE FAMILY

Parker) and Claire (Mrs. Harcourt Kerr)

1967 THE WICHER FARM 1967

over 100 years

1910

The farm house is now occupied by Mary Wucher

1940

MILLFIELD HOUSE

used for furniture display

taking business also

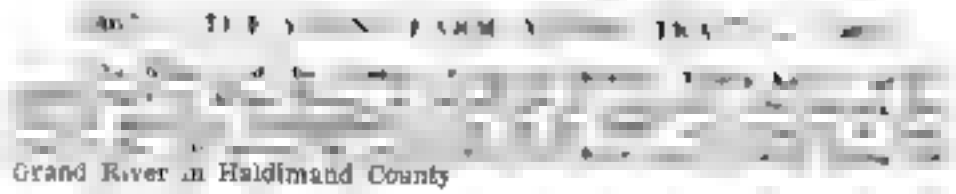
York, after Mr Wilson's death

THE WHALEY FAMILY

married Anna Martin

locally at the present tim-

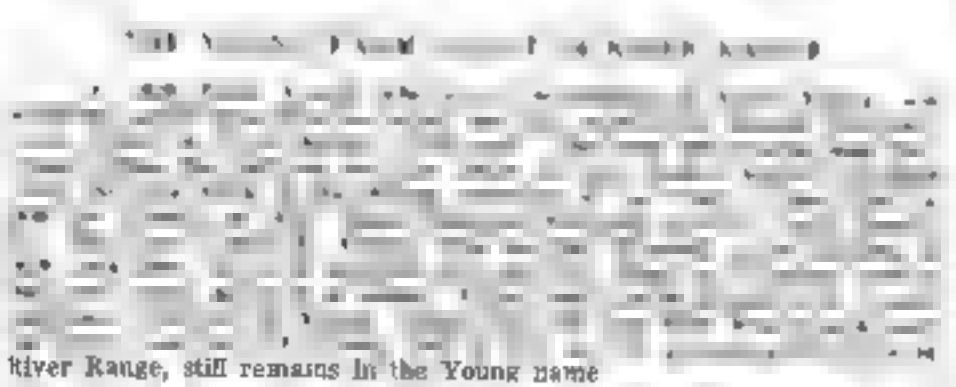
court in 1800



Grand River in Haldimand County

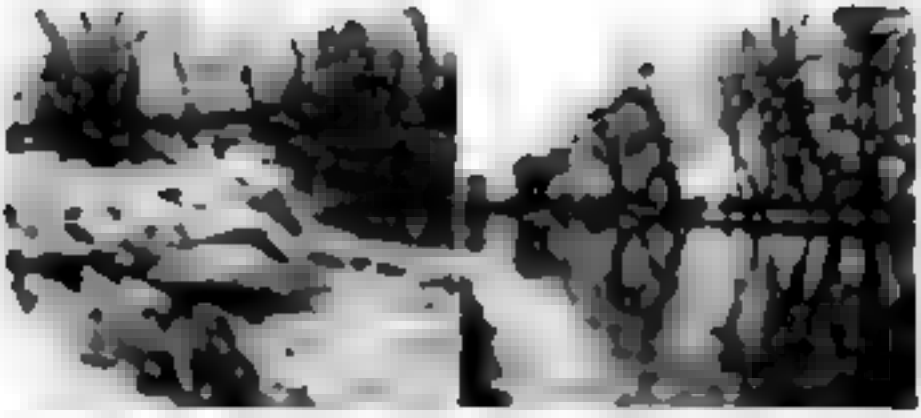
Catherine and Howard

Roger



River Range, still remains in the Young name

Several houses built on Lot 24, River Range



The Grand River

By Mrs. Ed Baker and Mrs J. H. Nehes

ducing water skiing.

f which several Seneca families are members

changing beauty is very enjoyable

river with mixed emotions.

businesses were forced to cease operation

Road No. 18, it was loaded on to a truck

and fear to a farmhouse

by drowning in their barn on the flats near Indiana

watered."

deposits of ice cakes

in the Niagara River is? Time will tell

Changing Times In Seneca Township

By Robin Kerr

[illegible]

800—Land for sale

[illegible]

[illegible] 8 acres square, organs in the parlor

[illegible] chines by horsepower

[illegible]

[illegible] Harvest Excursions some to stay

[illegible] carriers automobiles First World War 1914-918

[illegible] behind

1827—Power Line

1929—Stock market crash

[illegible]

[illegible] local brooder houses on farms, average flock 100-300

950—More milk shippers whole milk and powdered milk factories more pigs centra school 1957 public school buses trucks on farms, television. County Centennial, 1950

960—Many farmers work in industry as well as farm large poultry units, most farmers buy eggs and many buy milk stable cleaners diesel tractors, hydraulic tractors and implements practically all children go to school for 12 years large pig barns on family farm new type of barn some insulated and built by contract, no more changing of work by neighbours arge farm holdings credit buying bigger mortgages county debt $6,000,000 Zoning by law, building by-laws Population 2300

967—Canada Centennial.

•

"THE NEXT CENTURY"

The world grows smaller every day
But Canada grows bigger as each one of us holds out the hand of
Friendship and understanding
To our neighbour
And to the new-comers.

•

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

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Hackheath Tweedsmuir History
Caledonia Tweedsmuir History
A Short History of Caledonia.
Wm. McCullough and Mabel Burkholder Spectator
Ontario Agricultural Commission, 1881
Gazeteer of Brant and Haldimand 1867
Illustrated Historical Atlas of the County of Haldimand, 1879
The Early History of Haldimand County Russell Harper
Haldimand County 1785 1905. by Rev Robert Bertram Nelles
Sims Locks Tweedsmuir History

NOTE - The poem "Heritage" on page 64, was written by C Mona Whit[illegible].

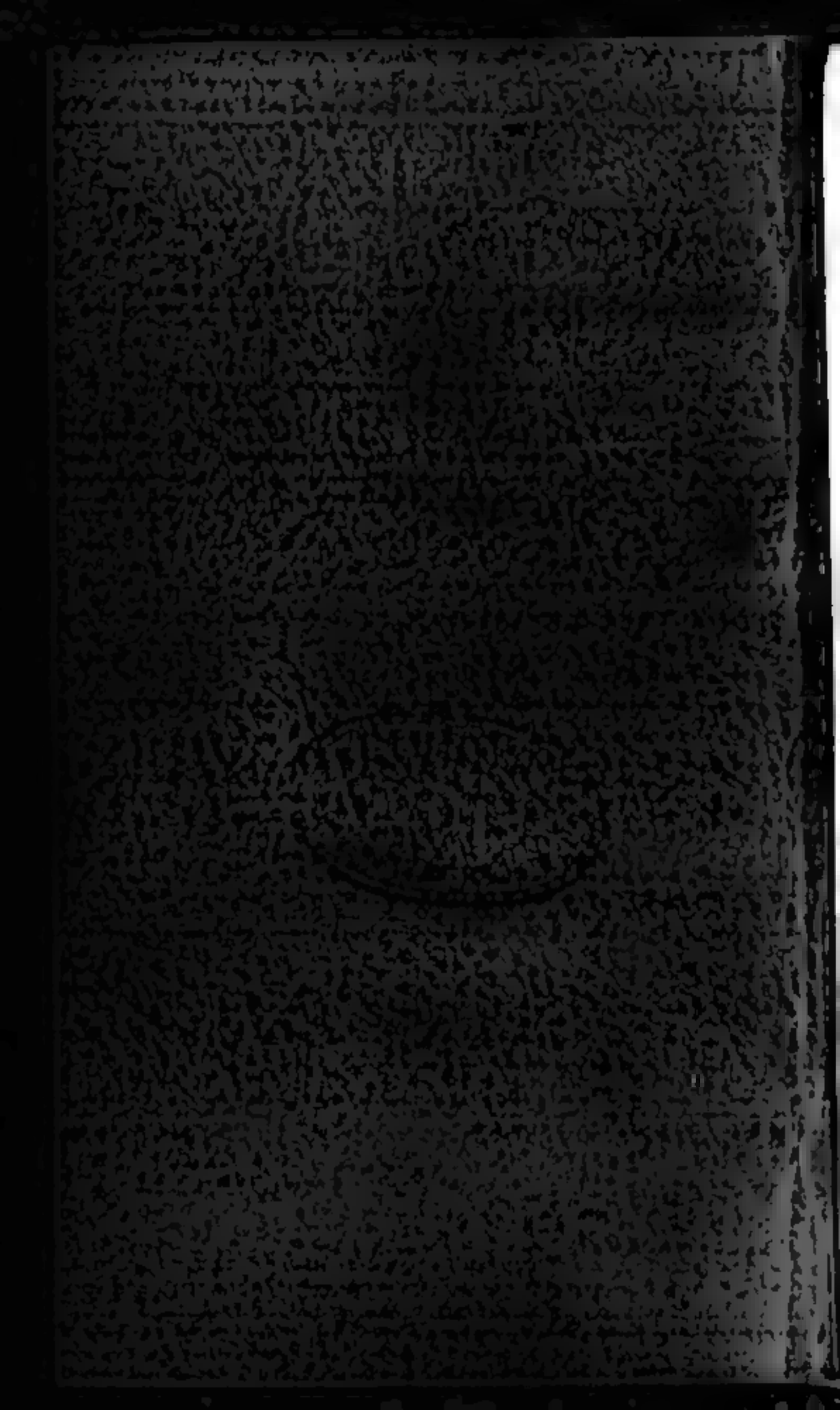
THE TOWNSHIP OF

SENECA

HISTORY

CENTENNIAL YEAR

1867-1967



A History of Seneca

— SENECA CENTENNIAL HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

Robin Kerr, Chairman, Mrs. John H Nelles, Secretary and Editor, Mrs Adam Marshall, Mrs Mac Stoneman, Mrs. Walker Hedley, and Miss Kathleen Moore

*

Thanks

The Seneca Centennial Historical Committee proudly presents this book. The Committee wishes to extend sincere thanks to all who have helped in any way to supply information, prepare items and check the final copy

A special thanks is extended to Mr Murray Killman for his contribution in art work which has added greatly to the appearance of the book and for designing the cover

This is the first attempt to print the history of Seneca Township, so it has taken much research. The history is far from complete and there may be some errors but the committee has tried to the best of its ability to get the true facts.

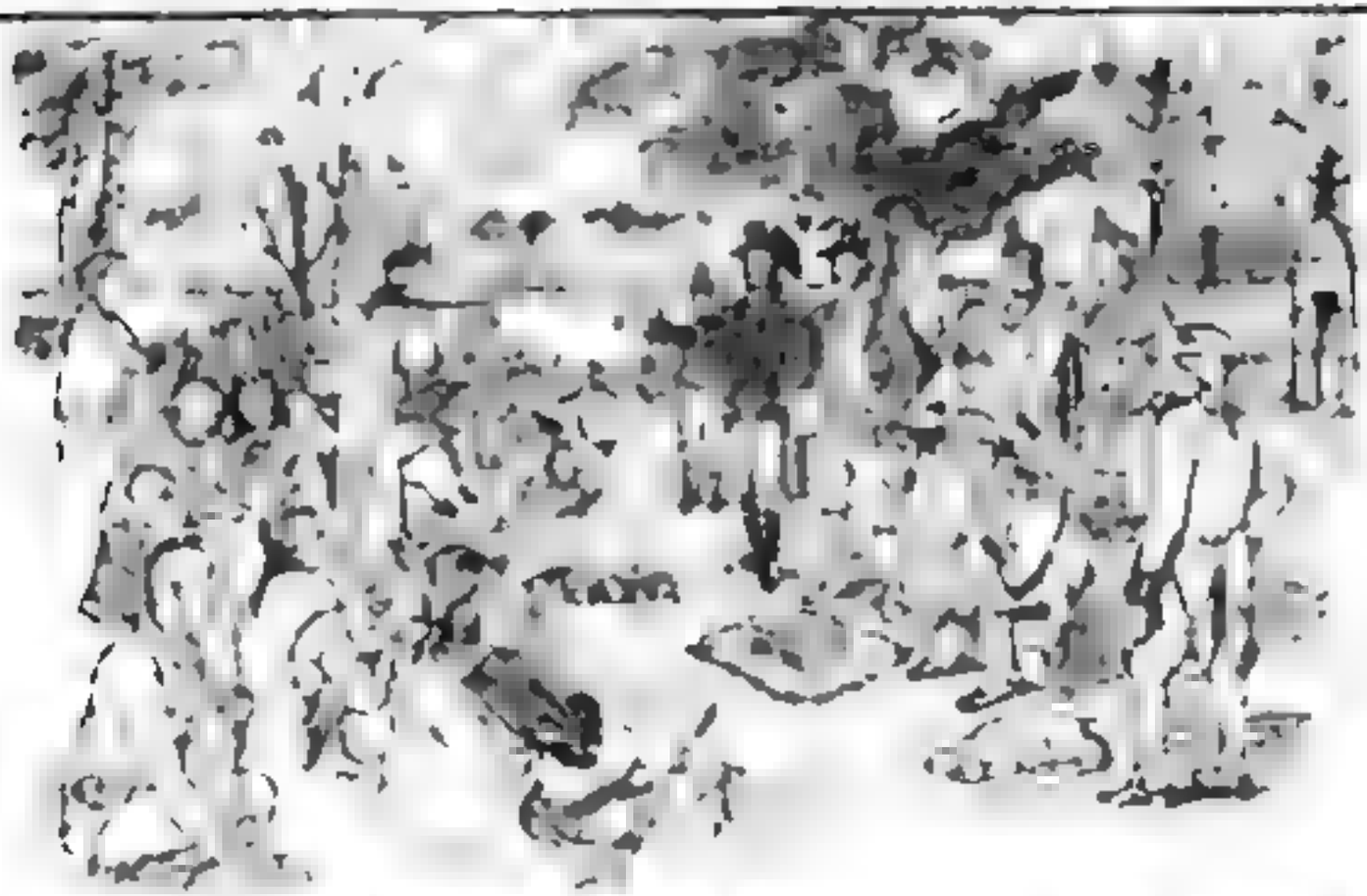
*

Foreword

The Township of Seneca is a land where little more than a century ago the Grand River passed through almost uninhabited wilderness.

This publication is an attempt to record early history pioneer days — the development and the achievements of the Township, and also something of the people of the present day who wish only to leave this land to those who will follow — a better place in which to live

Sincere appreciation is extended to all who have contributed in so many ways in making possible this the first History of Seneca



Joseph Brant rejects Governor Simcoe's Deed at the Great Indian Council 1793 in Seneca Township.

NOTE. The original of this painting is a Centennial donation by Mr. Murray McLean to the Township of Seneca for their new Municipal Offices at York

— SETTLEMENT —

[illegible] the Ouse River

[illegible] Valley in New York State there lived the Six Nations [illegible] Onondaga [illegible] The [illegible] Seneca [illegible] The Six Nations [illegible] tribe

[illegible] Seneca [illegible] Indian at all. [illegible] Seneca [illegible] the time of Augustus Caesar

[illegible] with the following inscription was unveiled

THE HALDIMAND GRANT, 1784

[illegible] a settlement of Onondagas near Caledonia

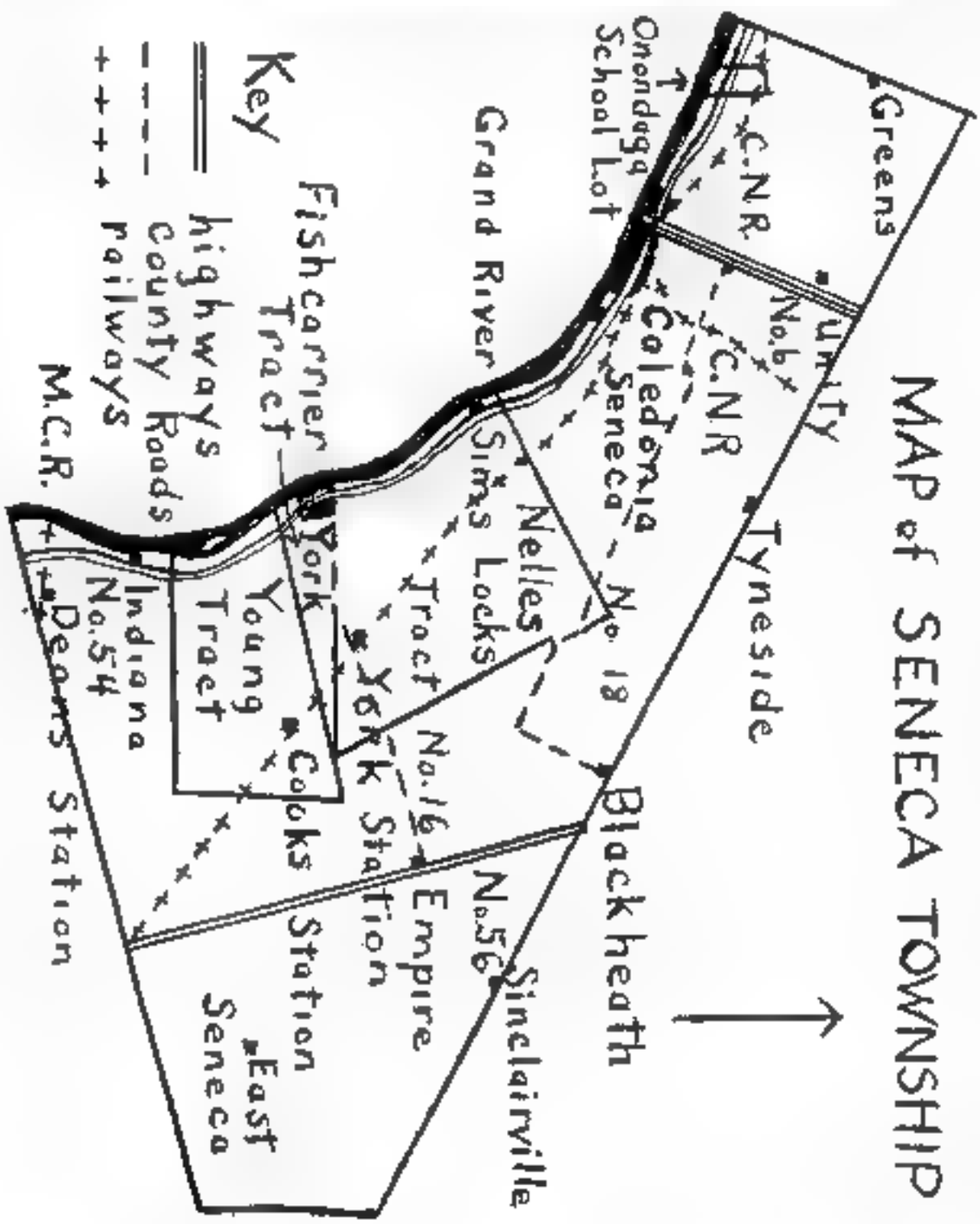
[illegible] white men, met there with Governor Simcoe

The Haldimand Grant of land was in dispute for many years, until 1822.

Settlement was slow until about 1832 when the land for the new Township of Seneca was purchased from the Indians and the Grand River Navigation Company began operations

Then the Senecas and Onondagas gradually moved to the land which the government reserved for the Six Nations across the river, and the people mostly from England Ireland and Scotland flocked into Seneca Township where they made homes, cleared the land and began the development of the country

The money that the original settlers paid for their crown deeds to the Indian Lands Office was set aside for the benefit and support of the Six Nations.



SETTLEMENT OF SENECA TOWNSHIP

— THE YOUNG TRACT —

Adam Young, born 17[illegible] in [illegible] County, [illegible], moved with his family to Mohawk River in 17[illegible] [illegible] N.Y. [illegible] the Mohawk [illegible] he acquired 2[illegible] acres of land, kept store and traded with the Indians.

When the American Revolution broke out, Adam refused to take an oath to the [illegible] and [illegible] to the [illegible] going to Canada. At [illegible] Because of this they [illegible] his house [illegible] and took all his [illegible] He joined [illegible] in 17[illegible] along with his [illegible] [illegible] and Henry [illegible] in service with the Butler Rangers.

After the war Joseph Brant invited them to settle on his grant of land on the Grand River. They were given a lease for 999 years for the [illegible] tract which is between York and [illegible] in Seneca. There they [illegible] and made a fresh start in [illegible]. Adam died sometime before 1797.

Many descendants live in Seneca and [illegible] Townships and all over the [illegible] [illegible] Seneca [illegible] [illegible] Young [illegible] [illegible] Young [illegible] Young [illegible] Young [illegible] Young [illegible] Young [illegible] and Frank A. Young [illegible] At present [illegible] Young [illegible] and Jack Young [illegible] on the council. Howard Young and sons still reside on the Young Tract.

*

— THE NELLES SETTLEMENT —

"The inscription on plaque at St. John's Church, York"

"THE NELLES SETTLEMENT, 1785"

After securing lands on the Grand River in 1784, the Six Nations [illegible] Hendrick Nelles [illegible] from the Mohawk Valley to settle there with [illegible] [illegible] and Robert [illegible] established farms in what is now Seneca Township [illegible] [illegible] Nelles [illegible] [illegible] and Robert's [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] John Nelles [illegible] [illegible] Warner and Abraham Nelles received crown patents in 18[illegible] for the [illegible] Nelles [illegible] in Seneca [illegible] The Nelles Settlement [illegible]

[illegible] Nelles house was where Jack Young [illegible] York. [illegible] [illegible] John Nelles [illegible]

The Nelles [illegible] in Seneca township [illegible] Nelles [illegible] at York. [illegible] Nelles [illegible] York [illegible] Nelles [illegible] York. There are [illegible] Nelles descendants [illegible] the county.

THE MAJOR HENRY NELLES MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

On December 1 1964, the Major Henry Nelles Memorial Committee was organized with Mrs Peter Slade, Hagersville as Chairman and Mrs John H Nelles as secretary Their projects have been the erection and unveiling on October 1 1965 of the cairn at St John's Churchyard to Major Henry Nelles and in co-operation with the Haldimand County Museum Committee the unveiling of the Provincial Plaque erected by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of Ontario commemorating "The Nelles Settlement, 1785", on September 18, 1966

*

— THE VILLAGE OF SENECA —

Since Seneca Village now incorporated into the town of Caledonia was part of Seneca Township from some time in the 1860's, its founding is included in our history

Quote from Wm H Smith's Gazeteer published in 1846

"Seneca a flourishing village in the township of Seneca Situated on the Grand River one mile below Caledonia it contains about 140 inhabitants There is a Methodist Church in the Village

'Professions and trades one grist mill (four run of stones) one saw mill card ing machine and cloth factory planing machine, chair factory, one physician and surgeon two stores three taverns, one cabinet maker three shoemakers three blacksmiths, one turner one tailor "

The owner of the saw mill was Jacob Turner a contractor for the Grand River Navigation Company In 1852, he was warden of Haldimand County

The grist mill was erected by James B Holden great grandfather of Harry Young. His partner was Benjamin S. Miles.

The wool card ing machine was built by Alpheus D Mackey One of the stores was run by James Lattie who was the first postmaster

Seneca met the same fate as other hamlets due to the plank road going through Caledonia the building of the railways the loss of the bridge and dam which had been built across the river and to the downfall of the Grand River Navigation Company

*

— SIMS LOCKS —

Sims Locks was named after Mr Sims who built the locks at each end of the canal for the Grand River Navigation Company in 1853 There was a dam with a fall of 8½ feet across the river

Mr John Jackson grandfather of Andrew Jackson was an engineer for the locks at Seneca, Sims Locks and York Mr Cahill pronounced Kale, was lockkeeper

With so much available water power numerous mills were built and Sims Locks became an industrial settlement Businesses and operators were—two sawmills opposite Port Baker house operated by his grandfather Henry Baker and one sawmill by James McNaven, and iron factory by Matchett grist mill by P McKerrader and James Farish and Co and furniture factory on south side of canal by Watson Andrew and Craig three young Scots Many local people still have furniture which was made there These young men established an undertaking business and built a hearse house with display room, near their residence, Mallard

The tavern, operated by John Dick was near the Kerr house. Here it is believed, too was a stable to house a change of horses for the stage coach.

Along the canal were homes of the residents, Mrs. Taylor lived behind the present location of James Kerr's home and in front of her place was a drawbridge for Mr. Baker and his men to cross the canal to the sawmills. Rafts were used to take supplies across the canal to the furniture factory and to bring back the finished product.

Some time before 1925, Bill Lashman who lived at the north of Sims Locks Drive helped commence the Lashman bus lines which still operate in the Kitchener area. Mr. Suggins, gardener who lives there now, has a store on wheels in which he calls on his regular customers.

In time due to the destruction of the dam about 1883, business at Sims Locks ceased to flourish, but recently new residences have been built along Sims Locks Drive and the owners commute to their place of business or employment.

*

— SIMS LOCKS W.I. —

Thirty six years ago, on September 19, 1931, Sims Locks W. I. was organized in the Sims Locks School. Mrs. Jos. Peart, member of F.W.I.O., a former teacher of the school was present to organize it. The officers elected were: President, Mrs. B. Guyatt, Vice-President, Mrs. W. H. Neales, Sec.-Treas.—Mrs. H. Thompson. Charter members who are still members are Mrs. B. Guyatt, Mrs. Elgin Brault, Mrs. Fred Moore, Mrs. Oscar Peart, present president, Mrs. Walter Neales and Mrs. Ed. Baker. Meetings were held every second Thursday of the month until recently when they are held on the first Thursday of the month. In December 1933, the W.I. furnished a room in the Masonic Temple, York. This room was loaned by Enniskillen Lodge to the W.I. and is still being used.

The Motto for "Home and Country" has been the background on which the many activities of the W.I. have been based: programs, bus trips, donations, bees, extension services, 4-H clubs, social evenings and others.

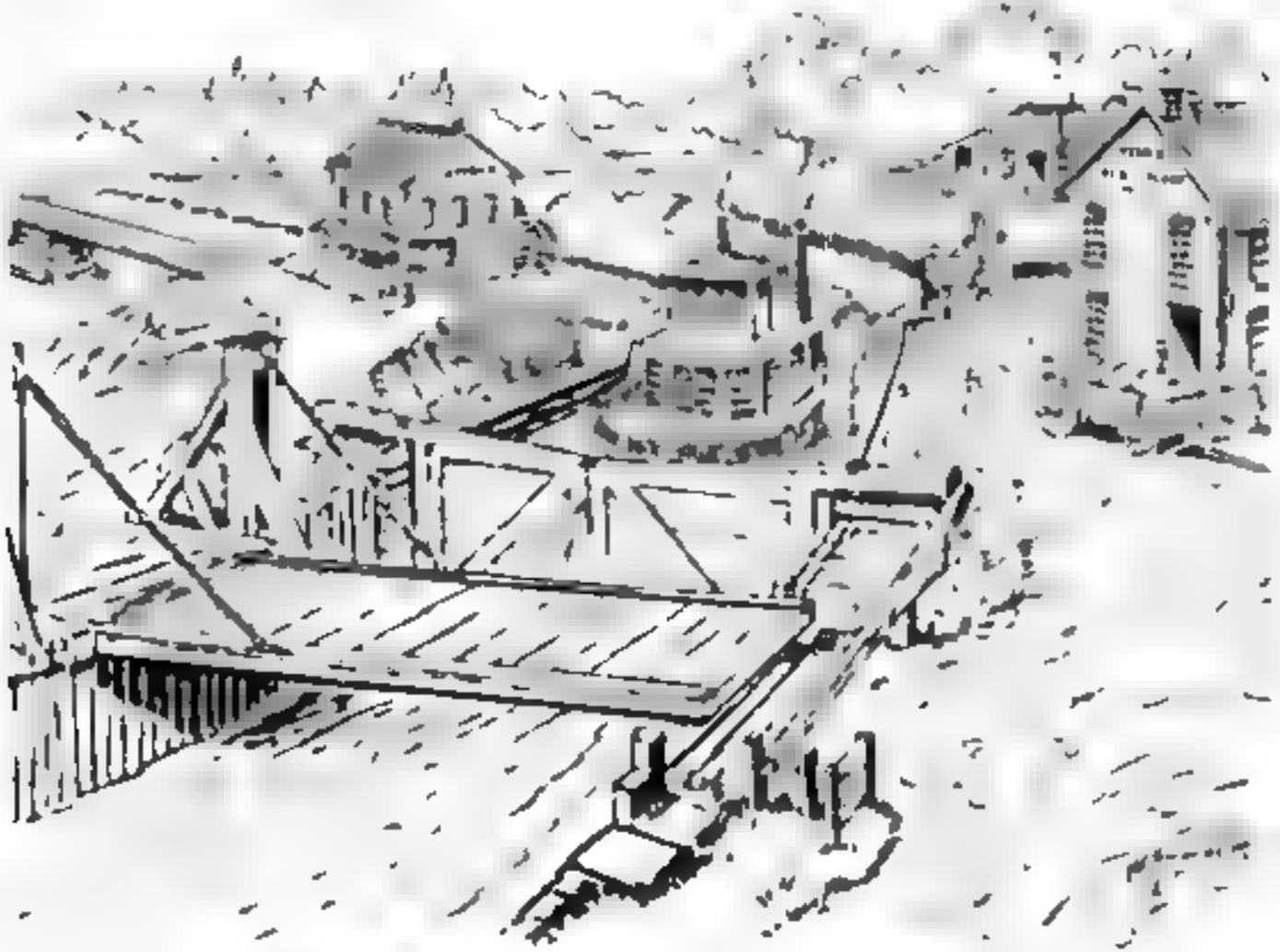
*

— SIMS LOCKS FARM RADIO FORUM —

On January 6, 1947, the Sims Locks Farm Radio Forum was organized at the Sims Locks School house with an attendance of 25. Meetings have been held regularly on Monday nights from November to March in the Sims Locks school house, York township Hall or members homes.

In 1965 after twenty-five years Farm Radio Forum ceased but was incorporated into Rural Learning Association.

Sims Locks forum joined R.L.A. and continues to meet for a social evening.



The Red Jacket going through the Grand River Navigation Co Locks at York
1845

C. James and Hesekeith Davis who built the first dam with a building and were responsible for the settlement

from Brantford

Company, merchants."

Ross Martindale operates the store at present

dressmaking establishment

or The mill was opposite Martindale's store

own the Masonic Lodge and the Lawrence Hotel. They were situated along the highway opposite the park.

Dr. Robert Lewis served the community as a Doctor and later became Sheriff of Haldimand County. His son Dr. Ned Lewis practiced in York before going north.

York's connecting link with Oneida was by ferry operated north of the present bridge and a boat house. In 1862 the Seneca and Oneida Indians built a house across from Alex McNeil to Oscar Pearl's farm. In 1882 the second house was built on the present position. At that time Mr. McFarlane was licensed for erection and promised a bridge if he were elected. He won and kept his promise. The bridge was replaced in 1965.

York had an armory and drill hall situated near Bob Warrington's home which was used by the York Hall Committee. It was also used as a skating rink until it burned down before 1930.

In 1882 when the new American Church was built the old frame church across the property of Mrs. Strout was moved and put into use as a parish hall on it's present site. In its early days as a parish hall it was used for its annual Christmas concert. It has been the scene of much activity and many social functions for the people of York and surrounding community.

It is with delight people recall the annual celebration on the grounds along the river on the 24th of May. There were baseball games, horse races and crowds of every description. People from miles around came to enjoy the day of fun.

The Dingman brothers, Bert and Lorne, built a dance hall by the creek in the new York and supplied the music for dances here, prior to the early 1900's.

In 1898 a library was established in York. The library with Mrs. Mellon as librarian was in Mr. Cline's store and was open every afternoon from 1 to 7 p.m. When the library closed in 1910 half the books went to York school and half to Anderson School, Oneida.

In 1907 the York W.I. was organized. After 21 years it was disbanded in 1923.

In 1908 and 1909 a group of adventurous young people in York under the direction of Mr. C. J. Martindale presented several plays and garden parties to raise money to pave the sidewalks in York.

In recent years Mr. Joe Smith of York developed a thriving greenhouse and gardening business. His two greenhouses supply many bedding plants for the area.

Two former residents of York whose ancestors have resided in the hamlet for years now reside in Lacombe. They are Harrison and Annie Martindale sons of the late Charles J. Martindale and Matilda Jane Axtell Martindale at present residents of the Grand River Sachem in Caledonia. They have just read this history of Seneca township and the committee take this opportunity to say Thank You Harrison and Annie.

— SENECA ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION —

In January, 1962, Bruce Edwards was appointed president of the active Seneca Athletic Association After three years, Ray Stroud was appointed president

The association sponsor boys and girls baseball and boys' hockey They sponsor 75 boys per year in the Caledonia and District Hockey League Much credit is due to the managers and coaches of the various teams

Turkey banquets were prepared by the boys mothers for 160 in 1965-66. The speakers at the banquets were In 1964—Chico Mackie of Chicago Black Hawks, 965—Red Kelly and in 1966 Eddie Shack, both of the Toronto Maple Leafs Crests and awards were presented

In 1966, the Squirt and Bantam teams won the championship of the minor hockey house leagues

The York Girls' Ball team formed in 1961, won the Haldimand Championship in 1964. the Haldimand Championship and the Ontario Rural B Championship in 1965 and the Haldimand and the Ontario Rural A Championship in 1966 They have been honoured at banquets in 1964. 1965, and 1966.

*

— ENNISKILLEN LODGE, No. 185 —

York Enniskillen Lodge received its charter in 1867 exactly 100 years ago. The meetings are held the first Monday of the month, on or before the full of the moon It met various places and finally in 1925 bought the hotel building owned by Mr Lem Lowrey Members who have received their fifty year medals are Oscar Peart, Chauncey Renshaw, and Elgin Bradt Ben Martindale will receive his in May

Previous to 1867, there was a military mason lodge in York.

YORK TEEN TOWN — 1959-1966

Teen Town dances sponsored by the 1st York Scout Committee and St Johns Mens Club were held in the St Johns Parish Hall in order to entertain teenagers on Saturday night and to raise money for the Scout Committee.

Arthur Matthews was in charge of the dances and Herb Martindale supplied the music. Sid Thomas, Carl Hunt, Jack Young and the late Frank Young were some who were of great assistance

In August. 1960, the teenagers entered a float in the Dunnville Centennial Parade It was a home made rose bowl type and was very beautiful They won two prizes They also entered it at Hagersville, two weeks later

— 1st YORK CUB AND SCOUT GROUP COMMITTEE —

In 1909 C J Martindale started a boy scout troop The troop has been active and inactive for various periods until 1956 when the present committee was formed under the direction of Rev Keith Kiddell and Norman Brown. The officers appointed were Fred Thompson Chairman,

Norman Smith, Secretary, William Moore, Treasurer, John Peart, Vice-President and Arthur Matthews, camping activities. St John's Anglican Church was the sponsoring body In 1958, the first Scout and Cub Parade of Haldimand County was held in York to the St. John Anglican Anglican Church The annual banquet in February is well attended Paper Drives help finance the activities. The present committee is Josie Shannon, President, Arthur Matthews. Vice-President, Gil Hitchcock Secretary, and Shirley Young, Treasurer

Jack Brenzil served as Scout Leader from 1956 to 1965 with much assistance. Gary Parkin has been a faithful assistant for many years. The four who became Queen Scouts were Lyle Brenzil, Harm Godwalt Tom Singer and Carl Thompson

The Cubs have received excellent leadership. Mrs. Wm. Moore served as Akela 1957-1960, and Sheila Matthews Berry from 1960 to the present. In 1965 the cubs won the Haldimand Shield at field day in May and in 1966 they were second

*

— FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE —

The Federation of Agriculture was organized in the county in 1942 and in each township John Turnbull, Harry Hewitt, Elgin Latimer Arley Laidman, Walker Hedley, Grace Hedley and others have contributed much to this organization The present officers for Seneca are Chairman R L. Moore, Vice-Chairman, Ron McClung, Secretary, John A. Turnbull

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— THE GRAND RIVER MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE —

The following freeholders F A. Nelles, M Richardson, A Turnbull, J Bann, John Harrison, W E. Harrison, Wm Clark Jr, Wm. D Thompson G Jeffery, J Spittal, A W Mitchell and J Sterdy met at York As a result on April 15, 1875, the Grand River Mutual Fire Insurance Company was organized with six directors and Mr Fred A Nelles as Secretary-Treasurer, with head office at York. The amount of insurance in force was $100,000 00.

It is still in operation in the same district with the present insurance of $200,000,000 00 in force Mrs. Gordon Douglas was secretary-treasurer for many years, being replaced by Mrs. Walker Hedley in 1966.

*

— INDIANA —

When David Thompson settled on his 1200 acres of land at Grand River Rapids or Indiana in 1832, the quiet of the wilderness became a scene of bustling activity because he was one of the chief shareholders and promoters of the Grand River Navigation Company which was responsible for the development of Seneca and Oneida townships.

A dam, with a fall of 12 feet, built across the river from Cook's Point, provided power for many saw mills and necessitated a canal for boats Many people were employed, the population rose to 250 At one time there was a bridge across the river from Indiana Road to Darling Road, Oneida At other times there was a ferry

A swing bridge across the canal was operated by Mr Young and family

Thomas Lester bought a large tract of land about 1838, built a saw mill and carried on an extensive lumbering business until the timber supply became exhausted He also had a stave factory where he manufactured barrels and pails He shipped 50 dozen pails to Hamilton each week This land is now the property of Bill McSorley

The Mussens and Kirklands each had a distillery and Kirkland and Robb an implement shop Mr Upton had a brick yard and Mickey McKeown a blacksmith shop Two large and three smaller general stores supplied the needs of the people The Exchange the Glove and the Swallow were three hotels.

Postal service started in 1837 The first postmaster was Mr Tate and the mail was brought by stage coach which was operated between Cayuga and Caledonia by Mr. Jacob Wigg

With the building of railways navigation slowed and with the destruction of the dam about 1863. shipping of lumber ended and the population of Indiana dwindled

— RIVERSIDE BRANT NORTH WOMEN'S INSTITUTE —

On September 12, 1945. thirty members joined the newly formed Riverside Junior Women's Institute, under the direction of Mrs C L Harbolt and Mrs V Turnbull, District President and Secretary, at the home of Mrs Ross Deagle Mrs George Berry—first President Miss Shirley Whaley (Mrs Jack Young)—Secretary Treasurer, and Mrs. Bert Howden—District Director, were the first executive

In June 1948, Junior was dropped from the name At first, meetings were held in the afternoon but later changed to evenings The Institute has sponsored many clubs and the Girls Club Work is one of its main projects.

Mrs Sam Ferris and Mrs Howard Thompson are the present President and Secretary The Institute's Centennial project is assisting in renovating Green's Community Hall

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— GREEN'S COMMUNITY HALL —

The history of the Hall and School is one until 1873 when the new school was built. In 1891 the Hall was transferred to the Section as a Public Hall At this time it was serving as a Library which had been established in 1889 Joseph and Michael Brown contributed much to this project The first librarian was Josh Cowle Others were Alex Cowle, Blake Urie Garnet Urie, Frazer Razza Stan Price James Meehan, Percy Leighton, Rae Hudspeth, Ward Grinyer and Russell Hoat

In 1918 the community decided to enlarge and remodel the Hall Public contributions made this possible As soon as the building was finished the Sunday School moved in Presbyterian lesson helps and Methodist papers were used The Adult Bible Class had the largest number of pupils with more men than women

In 1917 libraries were begun to be held in the winter months for three or four seasons Box socials were popular among people of the community In the thirties when times were hard, it did not cost much

to bake a cake and take the family to the Hall to a neighbourhood party The rafters rang with friendly chat, merry laughter, the slap of the cards the music of the violin the voice of the caller-off (often Joe Martindale or Hugh Hagan) as young and old threaded their way through a square dance or stood in a circle to watch Walt and Jack Marshall step dance.

Annual meetings in January are still held at the Hall to appoint a president and secretary The present officers are President—Robert Holt Jr Secretary—Harold Bolhwright A large crowd of neighbours still gather to honour a bride and groom or to wish departing community members happiness in a new home

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— WELCOME COMMUNITY CLUB —

In 1924, a Euchre Club was founded in the Welcome School District This club met at the homes of various members throughout the winter months

In 1926, when the old Welcome School was replaced by a new modern building with facilities for community activities the Club met in the new school and many enjoyable parties are recalled by the people of the district.

In 1960 the Unity Central School was built and the Welcome School was sold Today it is the Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene

The Club continued its activities in the beautiful entrance hall of the new school They were instrumental in having the bell from Welcome School moved to the Unity Central and placed there according to the architect's design All former students of Welcome School had a fond regard for that bell and wished it suitably preserved

Over the years the Club has supported various community projects. To mark this Confederation Anniversary, four Centennial trees have been planted on the school grounds.

Officers for 1967, President—Mrs Harry Lee, Secretary—Mrs. Ray Jones.

*

— TYNESIDE —

Like many other small hamlets and larger centres, the little village of Tyneside was named after a place of the same name from which some of its forebearers came—in this case the river Tyne in England.

At one time Tyneside consisted of two general stores a bake shop, two wagon shops, a shoe repair shop and two blacksmith shops. Some of the early business men were Messrs John Neale, Dick Wilks. Henry Awde Tom Gillan, Jams Duncan and George Tyler

The building last used as a store was built by George Tyler A post office was opened in 1871 and closed in 1915 when rural mail delivery was instituted The first postmaster was Edward Bayley and the last one F S Clement Mr and Mrs. Alex Harris kept store in this building for thirty years. Bruce Timson bought it and it ceased to serve the community as a general store when he closed it in 1952.

The nearest school was 3 & 5 Seneca known as Burrows school.

A Baptist Church has served the needs of the people of that religious denomination and its adherents in the community through the years.

— BLACKHEATH —

Blackheath is a small hamlet situated at the cross roads of the Stoney Creek Road and the town line between Binbrook and Seneca townships. Although the one general store which was opened in 1863 and the church which was built in 1874 are on the Binbrook side of the road, they perform a good service to many residents of Seneca.

The store housed the post office which was on the Caledonia Sinclairville route served in early days by carriers Arrell and Bain. The carrier of mail along this portion of rural route, now is Mr. Warren Bates who succeeded his father, Mr. John Bates.

The south side of the town line provided much history. On a height of land known as Vinegar Hill were two private residences—one built in 1880 by John Higgins, a stone mason, later the residence of Harrison Raymer and the other in 1895 by William Thompson, a retired farmer later the home of Tom Gowland. At one time there was a vinegar factory where the Raymer house now stands. Later the farm across the road from these dwellings was bought by Thomas Patterson, who was one of the first to introduce and grow alfalfa (lucerne) in Haldimand County. Mr. Patterson in company with Mr. Milo Rose owned gas wells which they sold to the Dominion Gas Company. Of late several new homes have been built there.

Intermittently from the 1890's both hard and softball teams have been organized. In 1954 the Pee Wee team was crowned O.A.S.A. champions.

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— BLACKHEATH ATHLETIC HALL —

In 1924 a community hall was built on the Seneca side of the town line and financial assistance was gained by selling shares to the citizens. It has been the scene of much activity. The many functions held there include garden parties, Women's Institute meetings, community parties and suppers, wedding receptions, post nuptial showers and presentations, family reunions, birthday parties, Literary Society and Lions Club Meetings as well as Brownie and Girl Guide meetings and other events.

In 1955 a new kitchen was built and an extension is being added in 1966-67 as a centennial project. The present executive includes Earl Macpherson, president, Lyle Gawley, first vice-president, and Arley Laidman, Secretary - Treasurer.

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— BLACKHEATH W.I. -

One of the early and influential organizations to flourish was the Blackheath Women's Institute. It was organized in the church in 1905 with Miss Petch (Mrs. Wm. Burgess) as president and Miss Blain as Secretary-treasurer. In June 1930, this branch of the W.I. celebrated its 25th Anniversary. In June 1955, the 50th anniversary was celebrated and in June, 1965, the 60th. Meetings are held in the homes and in the Athletic Hall.

— BLACKHEATH LIONS CLUB —

The Blackheath Lions Club received its charter in May 1953. The first president was Mr. John Johnston and the present one is Mr. Milbert Mounk.

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BLACKHEATH LOCAL ASSOCIATION GIRL GUIDES OF CANADA

The Blackheath Local Association Girl Guides of Canada was initiated in Blackheath by Mrs. C. Mona Whitwell in 1956. The first president was Mrs. Keith Johnston, Secretary, Mrs. Ralph Gawley, Treasurer, Mrs. John Duff and Badge Secretary, Mrs. Fred Bain.

The Guide Company was formed with Mrs. Mona Whitwell as Captain and Mrs. Evelyn McCormack as Lieutenant. In June 1956 eight girls were enrolled into the company. During its seven years of activity four Guides have received A.G.C. and Cords: Sandra Whitwell, Linda Breen, Jean Johnston and Sue Slack. Arlene Bruce and Sandra Whitwell have received the Bronze Cross and Life Emblem. The present leaders are Mrs. Keith Johnston and Mrs. Frank Brown, who are also leaders for the Senior Branch, the Land Ranger Company, which was organized in January 1966.

The Brownie Pack was formed with Mrs. Orland Johnston as Brown Owl and Mrs. J. Boraker as Tawny Owl. On June 13, 1957 twenty girls 7 to 10 years of age were enrolled. At the enrolling of the Brownies only a few had uniforms so they kept changing uniforms until all were enrolled. Mrs. Tom Young is the present Brown Owl and Mrs. Mel Mounk is Tawny Owl.

Many Guides and Brownies have camped at the Niagara Area Girl Guide Camp named Kienuka, on Lake Erie, which was opened on June 23, 1957.

The Girl Guide Association in Blackheath has appreciated the many gratuities from various organizations in Blackheath and individuals giving assistance in teaching and testing for badge work, thus contributing to the intelligence, handicrafts, service and health of the future citizens of Canada.

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— SINCLAIRVILLE —

Today a substantially built brick church replacing the original small frame building, stands not as a sentinel as those guarding not only the neatly kept surroundings and cemetery adjacent to it, but also the land nearby which was once the site of the thriving village of Sinclairville, the name being derived from that of one of the first families of Sinclairs, who about the year 1800 settled at this point of vantage for good water supply and transportation.

Sinclairville at one time boasted two stores, two blacksmith shops, a saw mill, a shingle shop, a shoemaker, two hotels with barrooms, a weaving shop for the making of rag carpets, a Temperance Hall and the aforementioned frame Methodist Church.

Before 1900 the mail was carried from Caledonia by Mr. Harrison Arrell's father who drove by horse and cart or buggy from Caledonia to Shavers Corners, now number 6 highway and Tyneside Road, to Tyne

side Blackheath Sinclairville, Empire York and back to Caledonia. He was followed as a carrier, by Mr Wm Bain father of Leo Bain who drives a Seneca school bus and grandfather of Beverly (Mrs Eddie Thompson of Seneca)

The last storekeeper and postmaster was Mr James Wilson father of Norman Wilson and Fred Wilson of Oneida The post office closed in 1915.

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— EMPIRE —

Empire situated at the corner of Highway 56 and Third Line Seneca was established as a post office on July 1 1868 Records show that there were four postmasters and one postmistress between that time and 1904 Mr John Evans, who was also a blacksmith. Johnston Lusk and W er Miller kept office at Empire Corner Mrs Annie Moore and Mr Robert Gill kept post office also

A store was opened at Empire in 1938 by Mr and Mrs John Tomlinson They later sold it to Mr and Mrs Ted Shannon and they in turn sold it to Mr and Mrs Ralph Love It is presently owned by Mr and Mrs Harold Longmire The only other place of business now is a lumber yard and small hardware store operated by Robert Slack, a grandson of William Tomlinson and son of Ellis Slack V S Empire is surrounded by farms and owned and operated by prosperous farmers and a number of homes have been built in the community by people of other occupations

Empire, like many a country centre, was the focal point for the organization of ball teams. Honour lies there for the winning of three Ontario Championships, one being the Junior Softball Championship won in 1951-52.

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— THE LOYAL ORANGE LODGE, No. 29, SENECA —

On January 4, 1847 Vernon Loyal Orange Lodge, No 29 Seneca, was organized in a log house the home of William Ramsay the first Master In 1852 T Miner was master and the lodge moved to the second line In 1863 Lodge No 888 joined Lodge 29 with Wm Davis as master Then the Lodge moved to Sinclairville That year a fine of 50c was put on any member who failed to meet on the morning of July 12, or failed to return at night with the lodge

In 1865, John Warring supplied a fifer for the parade on July 12, held 3 miles from Caledonia

In 1892, the lodge had 80 members and engaged James Kerr to organize a Seneca Fife and Drum Band This band took part in many community affairs and garden parties

James Kerr served 44 years as director then Harry Robinson for 20 years and then Lawson Keefer who was the last bandmaster

In 1913, the Lodge moved back to the third line to a building that had been an Anglican Church and located on the same farm where the lodge started in 1847 This building the Orange Hall is opposite Seneca Central School

Many present members are descendants of the founders 130 years ago. Matthew Riley is the present master

LADIES ORANGE BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION, No. 533, SENECA

On April 13, 1923 a meeting was called at the Orange Hall, third Line, Seneca, to organize the L.O.B.A. No. 533

The officers were elected with Mrs. Harry Robinson as Worthy Mistress.

The meetings are held on Tuesday evenings, on or after the full moon. Each year, the Louge celebrates the 12th of July. They help maintain the local Orange Hall and the Orange Home at Richmond Hill, a home for 75 children.

There are still five active charter members—Gertrude Robinson, Edith Tommanson, Nettie Kerr, Violet Lattimer and Amelia Singer

Mrs. Robin Kerr has been appointed Worthy Matron for 1967

— COOK'S STATION —

The railway was the development of Cook's Station which is situated by the C.N.R. track, in the Young Tract. When the railway known as the Buffalo Port Huron Railroad was built in 1852 through Seneca Township and Cook's Station, a number of Irish immigrants were brought over to work on the railroad with a promise of work when the construction was finished. This accounted for part of the settlement of Seneca township

The oldest house was a store built before 1852 by Mr McClelland who married a Miss Young. That house, the home of Mr Wahy Hall, is still standing and houses his antique collection. Mr Hall's father was a section man who came to the hamlet in 1888.

When land became valuable in the Milton area, many of the residents sold their property and settled on the farms in the vicinity of Cook's Station

Mrs. Cook and Bill Winters, an Irishman, had stores

About 1877, the lumbering and saw mills became the chief industry and a hamlet of 75 houses sprang up. When lumbering ceased, the village diminished in size

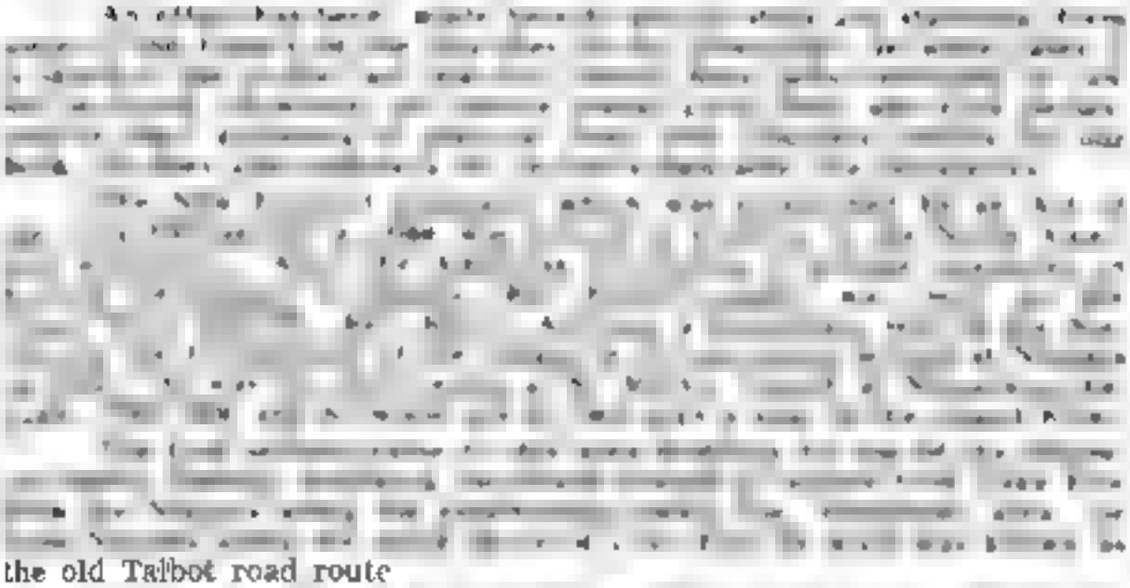
— THE HULL SAW MILL —

When lumbering was the chief industry in Seneca township there was a Hull saw mill, one head back from the plank road by the creek on the farm of William McTier, well known as the Martin Whaley, then the Bruce Whaley farm. That farm and the farm to the north were both Hull farms and each had similar houses built on them. The Norman Whaley farm was owned by Wes. Hall

In the vicinity of the saw mill, there was a hamlet of 14 houses. It was once a very busy spot.

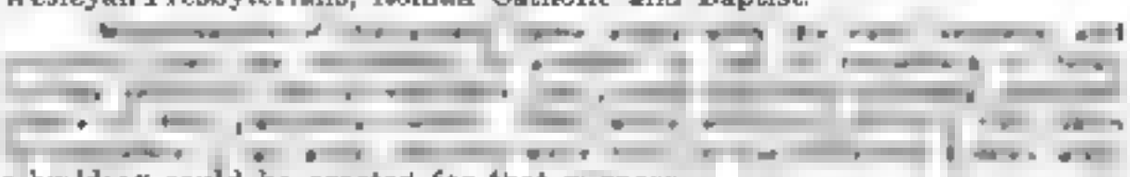
The Story Of The Churches In Seneca Township

by Mrs. Walker Hedley

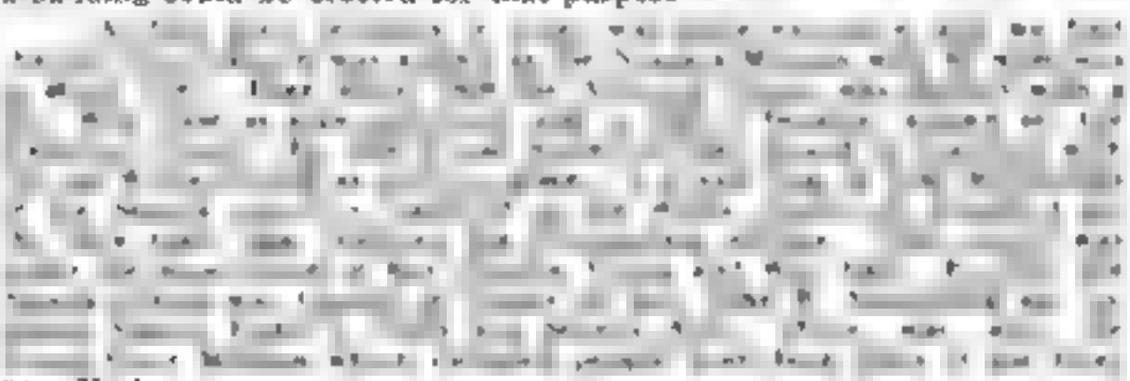


the old Talbot road route

Wesleyan Presbyterians, Roman Catholic and Baptist.



a building could be erected for that purpose



near York

not survive the 1800's.

Seneca West, Seneca and others.

— UNITY —

In the early 1860's camp meetings were held in the bush of the Mallace farm and from these the need for a church was felt and led to the building of a church in 1864 on land donated by John Hull. Until the building was completed services were held in the Greens school house and Wilcome School. It was part of the Grand Road circuit including the Seneca circuit in 1871 and part of the Caledonia circuit in 1877. Before the building was begun enough money had been subscribed to pay for it. Contractor was Mr Rattenbury and Messrs Thomas and Joseph Parker did the masonry work.

Weekly services were discontinued in 1948, but an Annual service is held as former members and their descendants return to worship and to honour the memory of those who lived and worshipped there.

— United Church Women of Unity —

In the spring of 1895 a Women's Missionary Society was formed in this community with seven ladies being present and of these Mrs Robert McKibbon was chosen President with Mrs J. B. Hull as Vice President, Mrs James Lindsay Secretary and Miss Louise Park Treasurer. Records show that during the first forty years of very active work of this organization there were just four presidents which speaks highly for their ability as leaders. In 1968 the Society was proud to sponsor Miss Mary Parker as a missionary to Japan. Although the church services were discontinued in 1968, the women of the church carry on with their meetings. In 1962 the W.A. and the W.M.S. of the church joined to form the United Church Women of Unity under the Hadimand Norfolk Presbyterial.

— FISHER'S —

It was located between Fisher farm present owner Clayton Smith and the Ed Stoneman farm present owner Mr Bovaird) between a row of fir trees.

— SENECA —

There were two active branches of Methodism in Caledonia, the Wesleyan Methodists and the New Connexionists. From 1815 to 1844 Seneca was part of the Walpole Mission Wesleyan which extended to Port Maitland and Nanticoke and included Walpole, Dunnia, Seneca and Glanford. A frame church was built in Seneca Village on King West Street northeast of the Gordon Jones Estates in 1844 to accommodate the already existing congregation. Because of financial difficulties the interior was not completed until 1851 when the ladies held a successful tea meeting to raise the necessary funds. The house occupied by Mrs Ted Ratchford was the parsonage.

In 1850, the Walpole circuit was divided in two and Nanticoke Glanford and Seneca were part of the Glanford circuit.

About 1874 the Methodist congregations in the area united and proceeded to build a new brick church on Caithness Street. It was completed in 1877 but even then the minister only preached in Caledonia once every four weeks for both morning and evening services. The membership was divided into classes under local leaders which were Seneca Class 1 David Lindsay Seneca Class 2 John Alexander Unity Class 4 John R. Hall Unity Class 5 William Ord Fishers Church 6—Wm Thompson Seneca West Class 7 John Thompson York Class 8 Robert

(now Indiana Class 10 James Montgomery. There is a cemetery on the hill behind the former property which was in connection with Newcastle Church when it was in operation in the 1860's

— ZION —

— ZOAR —

— EBENEZER —

An Anglican clergyman Rev [illegible] first held services in this community in the early 1800's and in the homes [illegible] one of the early Methodist settlers John B. Wentworth became convinced of the need for a church. In 1837 he [illegible] and a church and cemetery. The church was built in 1840 and the [illegible] to be buried in the cemetery is [illegible]. There was an appointment [illegible] and some of its early ministers were Rev J. [illegible] Rev [illegible] Rev Stinson Rev Nelson Rev J Cameron Rev J H Bradley Rev [illegible] Rev Nash Rev J McKay. During the pastorate of Rev Rose the church was renovated with an [illegible] was removed [illegible] and a Sunday School began was opened at a cost of $[illegible] with [illegible] names recorded as members. At the time of the fourth quarterly [illegible] A W Wentworth was on the circuit. Rev [illegible] was the minister in 1884 and [illegible] was again [illegible] that the church was again renovated. In 1908 it was closed [illegible] some regular services [illegible]. An annual service is held every year in June. The church [illegible] Rev [illegible] and with Rev [illegible] as minister. The Ladies [illegible] served meals [illegible] and [illegible] with some old being [illegible] and on the church. After the service a social hour was spent renewing old friendships with tea and cookies served

— Empire Mission Society —

In the early part of the century a group of women in the Thornton church area formed a Ladies Aid Society. At first they met three or four times a year or at the call of the President Mrs Wm Nelles. In 1914 they held a Pink Tea which was always attended at the home of Mrs Wm Burgess. The ladies assisted with the sewing for the Red Cross during the First World War. By 1922, most of the meetings were being held and by their contributions they helped to support the church by such things as new carpets, new chairs, new pews, new chimneys on the church etc. In 1928 the ladies sponsored an autograph quilt with 300 names on it. The money from the sale of this quilt was used to buy a piano for the church. In 1941 gas heaters and shades were purchased when gas was installed in the church. In 1949 the ladies decided to have a missionary meeting every other meeting. Electricity was installed in the church in 1948.

After the opening of the church for regular services the ladies of the community formed their Empire Mission Society and they helped to support Miss Muriel Beach with funds and barrels of clothing sent to her station in Africa. In 1949 those ladies who were charter members of the church were: Mrs J Robinson, Mrs [illegible] Berry, Mrs Jim Parker, Mrs Wm Nelles, Mrs S Cummings, Mrs [illegible] Edwards, Mrs Harry Howitt, Mrs Jake Howitt, Mrs Wm Howitt, Mrs Mark Howitt, Mrs Walter Howitt, Mrs Annie Howitt, Mrs Jane Howitt, Mrs Nina Chatterton, Mrs Tom King, Mrs W Patterson, Mrs Dora McDonald and Mrs Avalon.

In the present society some of the presidents have been Mrs Ted Shannon, Mrs Robert Nash, Mrs Alvin Johnston, Mrs Morley Johnston and Mrs. Glen Johnston.

— SINCLAIRVILLE —

The first settlers arrived in this part and settled along the Chippawa Creek about 1810. At one time the village consisted of two stores, two hotels, a blacksmith shop, shoemaker shop, and a Methodist Church. The first church building in 1841 was of wood with frame construction and in 1881 it was torn down and a brick church built. A cemetery is part of the church property. The names Neil Street, Beaver, Wright, Perry, Seaman, Wilson, Bowen, Prince, Grant, Main, Meadow, Irvine and Kenebec can be read from the tombstones in the cemetery. It is one of the charges with Cayuga and Merritt at the present time.

— The Happy Circle —

The Women's Association of Sinclairville was formed in 1939 and has continued through the years working to promote the welfare of the church and to assist with the Missionary and Maintenance funds of the church. In 1962 when the Junior Church Women's group were formed the Senior Women formed the Happy Circle group and continued to hold their meetings monthly and to assist with the work of the church as a whole. They are not affiliated with the U.C.W. of the Presbytery

East Seneca Church - 1863

EAST SENECA —

Sharpe brought it up to Union in 1925

he church.

old ones.

straightened in the cemetery and earth for leveling was hauled from York and the present was erected. The cemetery is now being cared for by the Township.

Some of the family names through the years have been Brown, Mitchell, Lewis, Johnson, Jackson, Overend, Latimer, Turnbull, Patterson, Lusk, Fraser, Dixie, Hickey, Downie and McDonald.

— United Church Women of East Seneca —

A Ladies Aid and Missionary Society was formed in 1905 during the First World War. The ladies made and sold articles to be sent to the soldiers overseas. Down through the years the ladies have made many quilts and there has been a lot of baking prepared to the needy and on special days or just for the sales. The Bazaar in the fall of the year was one of the main events and it often featured a display or movies of some one who had travelled to other parts of the world. This event was a family affair with pop corn and candy and the Christmas for the children.

In 1962 the Ladies Aid and the Missionary Society joined with the other women of the United Church to be known as the United Church Women of the Hamilton North Presbytery in East Seneca.

Some of the presidents of East Seneca through the years have been Mrs. Andrew Lemon, Mrs. Gerald Curtis, Mrs. S. Latimer, Mrs. Percy Overend, Mrs. Overend, Mrs. John A. Turnbull, Mrs. Ralph Latimer, Mrs. Wesley Johnston, Mrs. Walker Downie, Mrs. Everett Lusk, Mrs. Harry Davis, Mrs. Lawrence Dixie, Mrs. Arthur Baker, Mrs. Ken Downie, Mrs. Geo. MacDonald and Mrs. Chris Overend. The women of this church are sponsoring a 4-H Homemaking Club organized by Mrs. Walker Downie and led by Mrs. Geo. MacDonald, Mrs. Ken Downie and Mrs. Arthur Baker.

— TYNESIDE —

The first building used for religious services was a white frame structure which stood [illegible] the Edwards cemetery in the lower [illegible]. It had been used by various groups when a number of pioneers purchased it and moved the building to a lot which was donated by Wm. Harris for this purpose. The present church, a red brick frame structure was erected in [illegible] and is now the church of a number of the Baptist churches and is presently on a charge with Caistor.

Mrs. Wm. Harris, wife of the donor of the land for the church lived to be 102 years of age, [illegible] in March of 1949. The Rev. S. H. Harris was the first minister, [illegible] and Sunday suppers were two of the social treasures held in the early days and the large crowds drawn to these events were evidence of their popularity.

A Ladies Aid Society of the Church holds regular meetings.

— Edwards Cemetery —

The land for this cemetery was donated by Mr. David Edwards who came to this country from Wales. He had built a log cabin where the cemetery is and his last wish was to be buried on his own hearth so he was buried where the old home place stood. This cemetery was to have been a family burying ground but as soon as [illegible] it was thought to be a private cemetery. Some of the oldest names in it are Harris (on Edwards Street) [illegible] Burtons, Berry, Munn, Moore and Cook. It is now the community cemetery.

— BLACKHEATH —

The first churches in this district were a small Presbyterian church on the Durward Mitchell farm and a Methodist church called Ebenezer (spoken of before) just south of Blackheath. The present church building was officially opened on November 22nd 1874 at a cost of $1300.00 and 28 members were enrolled as charter members of the Blackheath congregation in the Presbyterian Church of Canada. The first trustees were Messrs. Robert Gibson, John Blair, George Mitchell and George Grassie. The first minister was a Rev. Mr. Vincent who received a salary of $250 from Blackheath. He also preached at East Seneca and Castor. In the work of the church the Sunday School plays a large part. In 1958 a basement was dug and the church placed on a foundation. The members of the congregation completed most of the work themselves. The basement is used for Sunday School rooms and other church functions. Rev. Carl Moore, a former member of the church is, at present, chaplain at McMaster University.

— Mission Band

On February 23, 1895, Rev. and Mrs. Marsh organized the Mission Band. Mrs. Russell Spittal is the present leader.

— C.G.I.T. —

In 1959, the C.G.I.T. was organized. Mrs. Stewart Young is one of the leaders.

United Church Women of Blackheath

An active women's missionary society was formed in 1890 with Miss Maggie Hanson as president. In 1909 the commissioning of Miss Agnes Hall as a missionary to China took place. In China, she married Hugh McKenzie, a missionary from Nova Scotia.

On March 10, 1960 the Women's Association was formed with Mrs. Durward Mitchell as president. In 1962 the W.M.S. and the W.A. united to form the U.C.W. The first meeting was held on March 16, 1962, with Mrs. Vera Cummings as president.

Funds are raised by catering teas, donations and various other activities. The funds are used to support the United Church Presbytery (Hamilton) missionary work and projects in the church.

YORK UNITED CHURCH

York United had its beginnings back in the earliest known time of the area with the itinerant missionary holding services at the Plaster Beds, York, Sims Locks. These were the two closest to present day York. There were four branches of the Methodist Church in existence at that time in the newly forming country, the Primitive, Wesleyan, Bible Christian and Episcopal. These were united into the Methodist Church of Canada in 1874. The Wesleyan Methodists at York, Primitive Jubilee in Oneida and Zion (opposite Petch's school house), Ebenezer (3rd line) Zoar (Dilse farm) and Bell's church 4th line Oneida, were known as the Grand River circuit with York appearing as the strongest in 1884.

In 1844 a Society of Methodist adherents bought a parcel of land in the village of York from Thomas Strachan for fifteen pounds. Thomas Strachan, one of the first settlers, came to York about 1835. The original deed exists today in its entirety and is held by the Clerk of the present

day season Harry Young. The land was to be used for the erection of a church and a cemetery yard. The trustees were appointed in the name of the Wesleyan Church in Canada and the first ones were George Raymond, Joseph Cornish, Samuel Cornish and Matthew Gill.

The Grand River Bridge at York completed in 1862 made it convenient for both sides of the river to work together. Up to that time, boat bridge and ferry had been used in crossing. The Grand River Circuit was set up in January of 1866. All of these churches were of the Primitive or Wesleyan Methodist.

The churches at Zoar and Zion were not strong points to the circuit and about 1866 two churches were built, 1864 at Zoar and 1868 at Zion. Both church buildings were sold shortly thereafter.

In 1866 Jubilee church in Onondaga was closed and in the same year the church at York was built to take care of both congregations.

The present church is on the same site as the old Wesleyan Methodist church and parsonage. In the laying of the corner stone a glass jar containing the Toronto Globe newspaper of that year and the names of the members and officers of the church was placed. The first resident minister was Rev. Faulis.

Sometime after church union in 1925 York became known as the Oneida York charge with Hagersville and since then the minister has resided in the manse at Oneida.

Since the church began a good choir has provided music and helped to make the services of the church. Some of the leaders have been Milton Brant, Mr. Jewett, Mark Senn, Mrs. P. Hunt and Mrs. Ingo Bradt.

United Church Women of York

In 1906 a group of ladies banded together to form the Ladies Aid Society of York Methodist Church. Very precise regulations were drawn up insisting that the ones must be accepted into the society. The members were to be Christian and live in harmony with all of the world be expected to be a help to the church and the community. They were to be willing at all times to help with any kind of work to advance and build the church.

They were a busy society and held Garden parties, box socials, concerts and bazaars to earn their funds. When the church was built in 1868 the ladies ever faithful helped to raise the rest a vast sum in those days. The parsonage was looked after by the Ladies Aid and a due bell also was installed in the tower of the church.

About 1926 a Women's Missionary Society was organized and flourished for many years. Then it was united with the Ladies Aid and was known as the Women's Association. In 1962 from the United Church Women of York united with that of Knox Presbyterian. One of the members of this group Miss Mary Harar has become a member of the Salvation Army. This group is a very active part of the church and continue to look after the needy, sympathize with the bereaved and work for the support of their church.

Canadian Girls In Training

A C.G.I.T. group was formed in 1954 by Mrs. Balash the minister's wife. It has been disbanded once or twice but is at the present time a very energetic group with about 25 girls taking an active part in the study.

ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, YORK

[illegible]

[illegible] abilities.

[illegible]

[illegible] answers not lucidly expressed.

[illegible]

[illegible] Paul's Anglican Church, Caledonia.

[illegible] buggies.

[illegible]

al churches in the County. Some of the family names in those days were Corbett, Ham, Murdoch, Norris, Hannah, Harrison, Lowery, Copeland and present day family names are those of the new comers are Kerr, Harrison, Cummings, Thompson, Cooper, Wright, Smith, Moore and Copeland.

Rectors of St. John's since 1800 include: Rev. A. Henderson, R. A. Brown, R. Gardiner, J. K. Gaudin, S. Betteridge, R. H. Brett, R. Meyer, C. H. Ibbott, H. W. Beard, H. N. Stone, H. J. Gibson, D. Harris, F. A. Irving, R. Andrews, P. A. Sawyer, W. R. Simmons, K. G. Riddle, P. S. Harding.

The original church organ was in existence until a few years ago when it was replaced with an electric organ.

Cemetery

The cemetery was begun in the year 1838 when the parish was organized. Previous to this time a community burying ground was located a quarter of a mile East of St. James serving the needs of the earlier settlers. Most of the residents before 1840 lived on the Young and Nelles Tracts and these had a family cemetery located on the Young Tract about 2½ miles South and East of York on a small knoll about one thousand feet from the river on the flats.

This would be the earliest one in the area and was used for more than 100 years. The tomb stone of Henry Nelles is dated 1791.

Established in 1925 by the descendants of these pioneers a perpetual fund of $[illegible] maintains the cemetery. The first committee members were Colonel Lesser, Henry Murdoch and J. M. Musser. Through donations and bequests this fund has now been increased considerably. The cemetery is well cared for and is known for miles around for the many varieties of shade trees which beautify its landscape.

St. John's Women's Auxiliary (W.A.) York

In 1898 a meeting was held to organize a Women's Association. The wife of Rev. S. Neelands was the first President with Miss Bessie Lowery first secretary and Mrs. William Morton first Treasurer. In 1908 a Junior Branch was organized but later merged with the Senior Branch. The Association has always striven to meet the needs of the Parish Hall. Missionary projects were to aid the needy at home and abroad and contributions to the West Dial and Hospital. In 1966 the W.A. presented Mrs. Martha Moore a Life Membership for faithful and devoted service of forty-eight years. Present day officers are: President, Mrs. J. S. Kerr; Secretary, Mrs. Jack Cummings; Treasurer, Mrs. Ken Harrison.

When the 4-H Homemaking club of Seneca became too large for two leaders it was split and the Charm-a-York now sixteen members strong under the leadership of Mrs. J. Cummings and Mrs. K. Harrison.

St. John's Men's Club, York

The Men's Club assists with the church work. They are responsible for renovations to the Parish Hall and have held many enjoyable social evenings.

"MARANTHA" CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH OF YORK

After the end of the 2nd World War many of the immigrants to this country were of Dutch descent and many of them settled in the County of Haldimand. Their first church was built at Jarvis and when that one became the centre of attraction two other churches were established

lished, one at York and one at Dunnville The Public School building at York was purchased from the municipality when York Public School was taken into the Central School system.

The newly formed congregation consisted of 23 families, and the first pastor, Rev G J Hoytema served both the York and Dunnville churches. During his ministry an extension was built on to the building consisting of a kitchen a hall and three meeting rooms In 1964 Rev Hoytema became full time minister for the York church alone, and when he retired in 1966 there were 53 families on the roll There is also a very active and large Sunday School which plays a very important role in church life

The "name' of this church has special significance to its adherents. 'Christian' identifies them as belonging to Jesus Christ. and as serving Him by proclaiming salvation through faith in Him alone 'Reformed marks them as belonging to the tradition of the Protestant Reformation, they accept the Bible as the only rule for faith and life since they believe it to be God's infallible Word to mankind 'Church' unites them to the holy universal church, the body of Christ, and calls them to be His imitators in their work and witness

Dutch Elder Ladies Society

There are a number of active organizations in the church and one of these is the Dutch Ladies Society consisting of the older ladies who speak their own tongue at the meetings The **English Ladies' Society** is composed of the younger women who speak English at their meetings. Meetings are held every two weeks and both work for the betterment of their church

Other societies of the church include a Young People's group, a Dutch Men's Society, A Cadet Club for Boys, and a Calvinette Club for girls A Young Married Couples Club and a Young Men's Bible Study Group

The church boasts a very fine library of which Mrs H Bakker is librarian

INDIANA

When David Thompson was building his empire at the village of Indiana in the 1840's. he built a frame church overlooking the river there. He was a Presbyterian, but did allow it to be used by other groups when it was not being used by the Presbyterians It was torn down after the turn of the century and the material used to build the Leatch house, now occupied by Walter Armstrong

Records tell us that a Roman Catholic church also was built in this Community

ST MARK'S CHURCH

About 1900, a church which had been torn down was rebuilt on the third line, Seneca, opposite the Seneca Central School No. 1 There until 1962, Anglican Church Services were held The building is now the property of Orange Lodge No. 29

"HILLCREST" CHURCH OF THE NAZARINE

About four years ago, the Church of the Nazarine purchased the Welcome School on No 6 Highway and transformed it into a church

known as Hillcrest The minister is Rev Russell T Davis. Besides their regular Sunday services they have mid-week prayer meetings and missionary meetings the fourth Wednesday of the month.

COMBINED CHURCH SERVICE

CENTENNIAL YEAR—On July 30, 1967, a combined church service for the Township of Seneca under the direction of the three York churches, Anglican, Christian Reformed and United. was a Centennial effort.

EDUCATION

by Mrs Adam Marshall

EARLIEST EDUCATION IN SENECA

Grimsby, April 9th, 1829.

Mr John A. Nelles

I was informed by Mrs Crooks. you were in want of a schoolmaster on the River I now offer you my services in that capacity for the term of twelve months, commencing from 1st of May, ensuing, or as soon as you can get ready and send me word I will be over The conditions will be on the same footing that our teachers have here which are moderate I saw your father last week — he thought you could easily get 20 scholars and thereby assure me the Government's allowance of pay the boarding to be free, and that board I wish to be with your family It will be requisite and proper to appoint trustees to see to the wants, etc of the school, to the payment of the master, and to the payments of his board. Some of our teachers board from one employees house to another free, but I could not think of it I wish to observe, and you can mention it to the employees. that I will leave nothing undone to bring on their children committed to my charge, and to merit both their money and approbation In the event of an agreement between us, I think that if you were to meet me at Terryberry's or Hamilton on a given day, I would ride up in my wagon as far as that with my trunk and I could then go over in yours with you I have an abundance of writing on hand just now, so you must excuse this scrawl with Mrs. Crooks and family's respects to Mrs Nelles and family, and to all enquiring friends, and to Mr Joseph Young, particularly, whenever you see him

When you receive this, send me your answer I am, Dear Sir

Yours very truly,
W. Crooks

Mr John A. Nelles,
Grand River

This is a copy of a letter still in the possession of Mr John H. Nelles. It was not contained in an envelope but folded and sealed It bore no stamp It could have been brought by a runner up the old Stoney Creek Trail which reached the Grand River at the Nelles Homestead At this time, 1829, Seneca was not settled except on the Nelles and Young blocks Evidently there were enough children in the locality to employ a teacher and the above was the first application received for the position. Apparent

A school was first held in Seneca Township in the Nelles home and thus formal education had its first roots for children in Seneca.

It is interesting however to note that on the farm of Edgar McAlpine which was originally part of the Onondaga School Mission Lot a school was established to teach Indian children. The New England Company established in 1649 to minister to North America's Indians became interested in 1784 in the Indians of Canada and built schools this one being in existence in the early 1800's.

In 1855 from a total of 13 School Sections 12 schools were open 1 was closed 2 were Free Schools and 9 were partly free. The first school to be established in Seneca was in 1801 one in 1840 one in 1842 one in 1845 and one in 1846, two in 1853 and one in 1854.

Of the 12 teachers in 1855 11 were male 4 trained in Normal School and all held Certificates 3 Provincial Certificates 1 First Class 6 Second Class and 2 Third Class.

SENECA VILLAGE SCHOOL

In 1833 the Grand River Navigation Company began the construction of locks along the river one being at Seneca. They laid out a village there naming it after the township in which it was situated. About 1843 a log school was built at the north west corner of Seneca and King William Street. When the government laid out the village of Caledonia the old Seneca Village was included in it. Therefore its history in the Township is of short duration. However this paragraph on School Examination copied from the Grand River Sachem August 1 1850 is a trend of the times for the schools in the township.

"On Thursday last School No. 2 located in Seneca and taught by Miss Catherine McKinnon was examined by the Superintendent and Trustees and we are sorry to say that very few parents attended. We were there only a few hours but during that time we were much pleased by what we saw and heard as the scholars not only seemed to be well posted in the different branches which had been taught them but they behaved in a very orderly and quiet manner. If the children of this school do not learn it will certainly be their own faults for the teacher and the Trustees have done all in their power to endeavor them to do so. The building is a very comfortable one and is well supplied with maps etc. and the teacher spares no pains to teach them all they are capable of learning. We most certainly congratulate the people of Seneca on their acquisition of such a pleasant and comfortable school house and such a good teacher."

— U.S.S. No. 1 GREEN'S (GREENE'S) —

from the records of Mr. Arthur Cowie

John Cowie Sr. settled on 100 acres on the Seneca Onondaga town line and 100 acres across the road in Onondaga in 1833. Richard Greene came from Ireland in 1833 to settle in Seneca on the adjoining farm to the Cowies in 1839 now the home of Robert Hoit Sr. and Jr. John Cowie married Miss Greene and purchased the Greene farm in 1852. The first religious services were held in Greene's log cabin both Rev. Wm. Hill Anglican minister in York rode horseback to preach.

The first school was held in some of the homes of this district. On the farm of William Jones now owned by Robert Hoit just opposite the former Hudspeth farm was a log structure which was used as the first school approximately around the year 1841.

In January 10 1914 the patent from the Crown was issued to [illegible] Greene and on May 5 & 6 Richard Greene conveyed to the Trustees of School Section No. 1 in the Township of Seneca for 10 Pounds part of [illegible] Concession of Seneca [illegible] Township of Seneca on which to erect a school house [illegible] Previous to the school being built the children had been going to the school that was given by the school trustees. A meeting was held [illegible] and subscriptions were taken for the purpose of building the school and subscribers to the building fund. The school has been named from the Greene family name.

For this school Mr Greene great grandfather of Arthur Greene did the mason work and plastering. Art Greene's grandfather did the carpenter work. It seemed to be a joint venture of these two early families. It was customary in those days to name schools after the farm from where the pupils mostly came. The children had to bring their own books and [illegible] to help keep the fire going. At one time there were as many as 60 pupils at the school. One of the early pupils was Mr. S. J. M. Brown who had his right arm [illegible] but was a brave [illegible] writer with his left hand. Many of the children's ancestors were [illegible]. As well as Greenes the following names were also at the school Thompsons, Richardsons, Cowies and others

At one time North Seneca was [illegible] and the pupils of either the Caledonia High or Public School came once a week to conduct classes. John R. Street was the teacher. Spelling bees were popular events. The Farmers Institute held meetings in the building [illegible] the Women's Institute [illegible] and had together for a very long period. Sometimes many of the pupils or their parents were called to give [illegible]. For many years regular Sunday School services were held in the old school

In 1911 Matt Richardson, Walter Hord, John Lee and James [illegible] purchased and had the building moved. The land was purchased from Mr. Smith on the Seneca-Onondaga townline near the farm of Allan Marsha. Desks and [illegible] were replaced by the first time Hydro was installed in 1938.

The pupils of Greene have long been noted in playing baseball and were noted for their great teams of players. Their greatest year was in 1908 when they won the championship for the township and a trophy donated by Mr. Ralph Bunting. One of their most enthusiastic fans was Mr. R. J. Bishop who took his wife the teacher at the time and some of the team to the games. It is interesting to note that in a reverse turn of events Mrs. Bishop [illegible] of the pupils of former years when she was Miss Boorman. In 1914 the school also won the shield for the most points at Seneca Field Day

When the school was closed in 1964 the Seneca pupils were transferred to Hagersville School and [illegible] School. The Onondaga pupils were taken to their own schools. The building was sold to be used as a residence.

— S.S. No. 2 WELCOME —

from the Log Book

The first school was a frame structure to be [illegible] previous to 1841. It was on the corner of the [illegible] School lot [illegible] and [illegible] the old school grounds. This school was burned but the name of the owner is unknown. It was said [illegible] Mr. Ely Young and [illegible] to a house on the farm owned by Mr. Enoch Thompson.

The second school a brick one was erected around 1900. At the time of its opening a big stir was put up bearing the motto 'Welcome'. Mr John H [illegible] a former teacher [illegible] from that moment [illegible] a home [illegible] better [illegible] brick one [illegible] services were held in the school. This school was sold to Mr John [illegible] in January 1917 for £60 and the contract to Mr Bruce Carver for £[illegible]. A humorous story is told of the last days of the school. Harold Butterwright had been kept in at recess for a mischievous and was issued slate [illegible] outside a the southeast corner of the school by E F [illegible] Thompson. While this was Arthur Ives [illegible] equipped with a hammer was on his way to nail pupils on the back fence, [illegible] this encounter Reds hit the corner of the school with his hammer and the school [illegible] fell out. Three teachers of this school were Miss Brierley of [illegible] Miss Harris a cousin of Dr. Jamieson now of California and Miss Anderson Mrs. A. T. Laing now living in Aurora.

In 1908 the new brick school was built. Mr George Thompson dug the cellar with such helper and horses. The trustees at this time were Mr Norman Hawthorne Mr Bruce Carver and Mr George Manning. The school site was enlarged by a half an acre as they purchased a piece from Mr C. Howden and a piece from Mr B. Carver. This was a fine school with a basement, cloakrooms and a stage. It was here where the surrounding district of Newmarket [illegible] Musical Festivals and Pastoral Functions. Here also the Women's Institute met to enjoy a friendly game of cards and a delightful visit. To beautify the surroundings Mr George Manning and Mr Wm. Hall planted trees.

Welcome School is now Hillcrest Church of the Nazarene.

— S.S. No. 3 & 5 BURROWS' —

From information supplied by Miss Margery Burrows

No. 3 and 5 was originally [illegible] section. No. 3 was situated [illegible] miles west of the present school, then on what was known as Tanner's corner. No. 5 was east on the farm of [illegible] Henderson. It is thought the this school was built about 1861. Miss Burrows father George Burrows attended this school. His two boys were all workers who didn't what they knew of the three R's and [illegible] pleased with the free use of the cane. As their salaries were small they were supplemented with free boarding-houses in the homes of the pupils.

These two sections were united and the present red brick school built. The acre of land on which this school was built was purchased from J. Cummings who was owner of the farm at that time. This farm was also purchased by George Burrows hence the name Burrows school.

Among the families who have attended the above school many of whom have moved away many have deceased are the [illegible] James and John Patterson Hazel Ives Harry and Robert Thompson [illegible] Nobbs Tanner Turner Walter [illegible] Mabel Ives and Hugh Edwards Samuel and Wm. Star [illegible] Norman Munn [illegible] Harrington [illegible] Isaac Westbrooke Hagan Hussack and Toker.

Some of the children walked a distance of 2 miles to school. During winter months they often arrived shivering from cold and frostbite. They would cluster about the big wood heater to 'thaw out'.

The annual meeting of the ratepayers was held during the week between Christmas and New Years. At the necessary business in connection with the school was transacted namely [illegible] election of trustees

material to aid in teaching

and Earl Burrows in planting the trees.

Central School in February 1957 as Principal.

— S.S. No. 4 SIMS LOCKS —

from the School Logbook

at Seneca Central School

participated in a tree planting project. Sixteen hundred Scotch Pines, White and Red Cedars and Norway Spruce, together with shrubs of mixed varieties were planted to form the nucleus of a nursery post. Mr. A. G. Skinner, Department of Agriculture, Cayuga was an interested visitor.

In May 1944, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bain presented to the school an Honour Roll bearing the names of the young men and women of the community who served in the Second World War. There were twelve former pupils, one of whom, Neil Bain, was killed in action in the spring of 1944.

From 1947 until 1954, the Seneca Locks Farm Forum held many of their meetings in the school. It was used as a community centre from 1948 to 1952. The new Highway 54 was built behind the school in 1951. Prior to this, much to the delight of the pupils, when the Grand River was in flood, they enjoyed extra holidays.

From January 1947, when Seneca formed the School Area Board, there was an interchange of pupils between S.S. 3 and 5, York and Seneca Locks, the school being closed at times and reopened. It was finally closed in February 1961, when the new Seneca Central School was opened. All the children were transported by bus to the new school. In 1960 when Unity School opened, the section was divided by the Autray Road, some going to Unity and some to Central. Seneca Locks school was sold as a residence.

– S.S. No. 6 PETCH'S –

from the School Log Book

The land for the school was purchased from Mr. Robert Petch who received his land from the Crown. The great granddaughter, Mrs. Philip Adams, is now living on the land originally deeded to Robert Petch. The first school was a log structure, standing to the south and east of the present one. In 1883 the Draper Brothers of Caledonia built the school which is now standing. In 1952 the floor was raised about a foot and new seats were installed and placed so that the front of the school was toward the south, with new slate boards.

The first teacher of this school was Miss Mary Anne Gibson, who continued to reside in the section. Other teachers were William McClement, Alex. Crie, Miss Emily Hall, Miss Parker and Miss Mahony.

On May 7, 1945, terminating five long years of war, V.E. day was celebrated by declaring a holiday. At this time the Chairman of the School Board of Trustees was Mr. Fred Bain with Mr. Allan Scott the Secretary-Treasurer. When the Township School Area was formed in 1946 Allan Scott served as Secretary-Treasurer until his death in 1962. His duties were discharged most capably and amicably. During his tenure of office the two new schools, Seneca Central and Unity were planned and built. In the many decisions that had to be made, Allan Scott's unobtrusive advice often helped to determine the course of action. His duties were carried on by his wife, Mrs. Allan Scott.

Electricity was installed in the school in 1946. Commencing September 1947, books, pencils, etc. were supplied to the pupils by the Board.

The school, when closed, was later sold as a motorcycle club, the 'Steel City Riders' of Hamilton.

– S S. No. 7 YORK —

[redacted] was paid regularly for some years. It [redacted] another room was added to the school [redacted] Donaldson was $50.80 and the cost of buildi[redacted] and platform was $255 00 [redacted] for the new room [redacted] [redacted] Parker and A A [redacted]

[redacted] S.S. No. 7 was $95 20.

[redacted] of the respect and love for this dedicated teacher

[redacted]

any special occasion, particularly the Christmas concert She was the first teacher of music in the Central School Thus Mrs Bradt touched the lives of many of the young people taking a great interest in both pupils and teachers alike.

— S.S. No. 8 INDIANA —

from the Account and Minute Book of the School

Mr David Thompson was Secretary Treasurer of Indiana School in 1860 and James Cannan was hired as teacher The funds received to pay expenses were from a Municipal Grant Legislative Grant Clergy Reserve Fund and Cash collected on Rate Bill assessment The Clergy Reserve Fund seemed to diminish as the years went by until 1884 when it was withdrawn Apparently it was difficult to engage teachers at this time A copy of a letter written is as follows

Indiana, February 5, 1861

Thos. Walsh,
Teacher, Woodbridge, P.O
Dear Sir,

Our reply to yours of the 31st January The salary we are prepared to pay to a Teacher of your standing is $400 four hundred dollars per annum We will give you three months trial and if you satisfy us and prove yourself a good Teacher, we will continue you for the balance of the year Please let me know immediately

Yours truly,
D. Thompson.

Mr G. A. Lannon was hired in 1861 at the salary stated

The office of Secretary Treasurer was taken seriously as is noted by a Poll for this position January 14 1863 The names of the voters and their vote is recorded for two candidates David Thompson and Myles Finnen resulting in a majority of two voters for Finnen of a total of forty eight votes The men who discharged this duty of Secretary Treasurer over the years were David Thompson James Kirkland John Lynch Myles Finnen A M Kinnear Wm Young Wm Murdoch J N Moore Thos Mesorley, Thomas Shipway and W E Murdoch In 1927 Mr W E Murdoch was paid ten dollars for the first time for services in this office

In 1866, a Poll was taken on the question of a free school with eight majority in its favour Yet in 1869 it was moved and seconded by D Thompson and Isaac Geddes that there be a rate bill of seventeen cents per month per pupil to pay the salary of the teacher and that the balance if any) be raised by a tax on the property of the section In the accounts of that year $73.00 was collected as tuition fees Mr Wm Murdoch was employed as collector of fees

In 1867 Mr Edward Slaven was employed as teacher for $360 when it was moved and seconded by Mr Finnen and Mr Geddes that the Trustees hereafter pay any teacher they may employ and all other expenses incurred in such current money Silver, Paper or Gold as they may be able to collect Miss Isabella Murdoch seems to have been the first lady teacher in 1866.

On December 5 1872, the deed for the school lot was registered and early in 1873 James Baker was paid for plans and specifications for a new school on which debentures were issued Peter McKay was contractor

being paid $1170 in November. Miss Agnes Turnbull was the first teacher in this new school. In [illegible] Mrs. [illegible] Federal [illegible] began using the school as a polling booth. The school was heated by wood until [illegible] when gas was installed. For many years Mrs. George Shipway was custodian.

In 1914 a new school was erected at the cost of $2434.02. Mr. W. H. Johnson being the builder. Miss V. Lyle was the teacher in this new school followed by Miss Isabel Dilse.

In 1918 the school was closed and Miss Zeta McIntyre, a former teacher, transported the few pupils to Carnegie. In 1919 Mr. Albert Hannah began transporting the pupils. After the formation of the Township Area Board the school was opened for surrounding pupils with others being brought in. Mrs. Myrtle Kennedy was the last teacher moving on to the new school.

— S.S. No. 9 EMPIRE —

from an address by Harry Hewitt

The pioneers of the Third Line Scarrs having hewed their homes from the forest recognized the fact that their children must have an education along the [illegible] of the three very useful subjects — reading, writing and arithmetic. With this end in view, around the year 1854, a log schoolhouse was built on the property across the road from the present school, on what is now the southeast corner of the cemetery of Ebenezer Church. This property was then owned by John R. Woodcock who, at that time, owned the farm on which stands the present school. This farm became the property of Wm. Hewitt and is now owned by his son-in-law Morley J. Brown. According to old records in 1858, Robert Hewitt, Sr. was engaged to teach school in this old log school. Robert, Sr. later married John Woodcock's eldest daughter, continuing as teacher for a period of seven years and was followed by Thos. Turnbull.

Since this school was greatly overcrowded, accommodation had to be found for the families of the district. A new frame school was built on the northeast corner of the present school grounds. One half acre of land was purchased from R. Bruce Woodcock, son of John Woodcock who owned the farm. Mr. D. W. Aitken was the first teacher in the new frame school for one year only and he was again followed by Robert Hewitt, Sr. for another seven years. Mr. Culver owned the fifty acres of land lying along the school yard to the east now owned by Arnold Hannah. It is interesting to note that some of the scholars helped Mr. Culver on his farm in the harvest, instead of the parents paying the usual amount of help for the season's harvest. Following Mr. Culver who moved away was Miss Kennedy and I must have been a real newcomer for the scholars to have a lady teacher. Another well remembered teacher was Mr. Robert Johnston.

In the fall of 1891 the present brick structure was erected and the old frame school was sold for $40 to Mr. Kerr and stands as a driving shed on the Kerr Home farm. The new brick school was opened early in the winter of 1892 and Miss Nellie Lewis was the first teacher. Mr. Hewitt states that it was a red letter day for opening when he became a pupil. He would like to think that he scratched his name in the desks and seats were either made before he started or after he completed attending. It is interesting to note that Miss Amanda Frank, a teacher, married Mr. Wm. Burgess whose name appears very often in the minute book of S.S. No. 9. This lady is [illegible] living in Caledonia, the grand old age of ninety-seven in April, 1967.

A most interesting event [illegible] of this school was a Centennial Reunion held on June 1 1940. With Mr. Hudson Kerr as President and Mrs. John Turnbull, teacher of the school, as Secretary and a very capable committee [illegible] and friends were invited to return to the school to meet old friends on Saturday afternoon. This was followed by a Church Parade in the evening and Anniversary Services in Bethesda Church on Sunday morning, June 2. A guest book was kept which has 200 signatures, some signatures representing a whole family. Many interesting pictures of this occasion have been preserved. Mrs. John Turnbull, Amelia Shannon, continued as teacher in this school until the new Central School opened where she has carried on as teacher.

The school was reopened for a brief period in 1918 while Unity Central School was being built to accommodate a class under Mr. Richard Lawrence. When Unity was completed the school was again closed.

- S.S. No. 10 LUSK'S —

from records of Mr. John Turnbull

The first school was on the same site but back of the present school house. It was a log building and the date of its erection is not known. The year 1852 is recorded when Wm. Mitchell was teacher.

A second building was erected in 1868 on which date the sum of $1 was paid to Mr. Cruickshanks for the second site. This school was about thirty feet behind the present school. The cistern that was dug there was used [illegible] about 1885. Water was pumped to it from the roof by a series of long wooden troughs supported on the tops of [illegible]. These troughs were blown out of place and were destroyed when [illegible]. This school was presumed to be destroyed by fire.

In the early days the teacher received some of his pay by boarding around the section according to a predetermined schedule. The salary [illegible] was $18 a month in 1868, $20 in 1869 and $25 in 1870. However in the year 1882 Annie Benson was employed to teach for $180 and paid her board at Stewart Latimer's which [illegible] was $4 a week. All the teachers were men until 1868 when Miss Agnes Turnbull was hired.

Even in the second school according to the records the desks or [illegible] were around the outside walls with the students sitting on [illegible] benches with their backs to the centre of the room which was occupied by the teacher with a desk, cane and the big box stove. These long benches used for seats were in need of continual repair [illegible] the ones on the boys' side. The boys at that time were no different appearance from boys of any other time and could figure ways and means to accomplish by mind they had in view. They found that by [illegible] all swinging their knees and toes on the seat that the nails in the legs would loosen or even [illegible]. From there on the [illegible] was easy. A total collapse was inevitable and the trustees were forever mending them.

Minutes of a Special Meeting of S.S. No. 10 Seneca in the early 1850's

Held according to law [illegible] on the thirteenth day of March for the purpose of considering [illegible] what music the Teacher's salary would be raised for the current year when it was moved by Thos. Watson and seconded by Robt. Cruickshanks that Wm. Brown take the Chair (Carried)

Moved by A. Turnbull seconded by A. Latimer that James Cruickshanks acts as Secretary (Carried).

Moved by T Watson and seconded by R M Cruikshanks that each child attending school shall pay three shillings and nine pence per quarter. (Carried)

Moved by A Turnbull and seconded by Wm Little that the School house be repaired to serve for the current year (Carried)

— S S. No. 11 —

Information supplied by Mr Patrick J. Long

The first school was a frame structure built on a lot purchased from Tom Fagan When it was replaced by a new school it was moved to the McLaughlin farm to be used as a driving shed The brick school now standing was built in 1883 by John Parker a carpenter at a cost of $1,300

This section employed many of their own residents as teachers — Arthur Nichol John Hedley Frances Martin Wm McLaughlin, Jack Tousley Miss King Pat Corrigan Miss Duncan and Ida Bird

Some of the Secretary Treasurers were Patrick Long Wm Bird Thomas Bird, and Fred Overend.

The school was closed for one week in 1919 due to the Flu epidemic which raged during the fall and winter of 18 and 19 following the end of the war Whole families were ill at the time with every available doctor badly overworked Exams at midsummer 1919 were two weeks later to allow extra time for teachers and pupils to make up lost work It was also in 1919 when Dr L K Sutts paid a visit to the school the first medical inspection in Haldimand He was succeeded by Dr Russell in 1920 Mr J L Mitchener made his first visit as inspector in April 1919 The teacher Miss Gladys Hurst was paid $650 at this time

Among early families in the sections are McLaughlin Snider Long Bird Johnston Cumming Cassidy King Hedley Cousins Montgomery Berry Fagan Parker Masterson Duncan Hunt Lusk Corrigan Wolf Overend, Walsh, Martin, Spencer and Brooks

The school was closed in 1947 and the children were transported by bus to S S No 12 by Mr M Moore One of the last teachers was Miss Mary Mudock.

Mr Long has the school stamp used for all official papers

— S.S. No. 12 —

From information gathered by Mr J A. Elder

As is commonly known the Indian Road was the main trail used first by the Iroquois Indians which crossed near Buffalo and continued up the Niagara Peninsula to Cayuga and on to Indiana crossing the Grand River there and beyond The early settlers in this end of Seneca were mainly U E Loyalist stock who settled along this Indian Trail a number of years before the Township was surveyed 1843 and earlier Some were former soldiers who came from the two British outposts of Beaver Dams and Fort Robinson as did the Dunns and the Kings Others as the Switzers Lymburners Beckers and Sutters and U E Loyalists crossed the Niagara River near Buffalo with their belongings packed on wagons by lying logs to the wheels of their wagons and floating them across the River behind their swimming straggling horses Other early settlers in this section were the Kerns Duffs Browns Robinsons and Tubbs With few exceptions they all came up the Chippewa to the King's Ferry Landing at Cayuga with their few belongings on rafts pulled by horses on shore.

Being mostly Methodist by faith they built the Zaar Church [illegible] on a half acre of land granted by Wm. [illegible] on the N.W. corner now the intersection known as the [illegible] and [illegible] roads. Just [illegible] where after a school was built. [illegible] School was held previously for many months in the church. Miss Lucy Parker who is now living with her niece Mrs. Kenneth Smith, Myrtle, Ontario, states that the children of that school played in the church cemetery. A teacher by the name of Macdonal is recalled.

When the township was surveyed and new roads set out, Zaar school was closed in 1861, and a more central school was opened in 1862 on the S.W. corner of the Nancy Mitchell farm at that time. The trustees were Robt. King grandfather of Ard Archer Ltd. and Wm. Jones great grandfather of Lawrence Lee Ltd. Both were of other settlers and their farms have remained in the families ever since. The other trustees in succession were Samuel Swackhamer and Barak Tubbs.

Aspers was also the same time as the Zaar School was operating another school named the Union School opened [illegible] about 2 miles east on the same trail. It also was closed in 1861 and those few children [illegible] accommodated east of Mechers Lane in the township of Seneca were transferred to the Pratt Lane S.S. No. 2 (now Pratt school). Two teachers at this school were Josiah Johnson at the salary of $[illegible] per year and P. E. Park, first class certificate at $22 per month.

This Pratt school continued until a [illegible] prize which seemed of great importance at the time. It was located [illegible] miles [illegible] far west and some of the children had to walk farther than others. The new school was a new brick school on the same farm 60 rods to the east. The old school was sold to Jacob Walker and moved to the corner right across from the present East Seneca Church on the Overend farm now being converted into a house.

The brick school was closed in 1957 when Seneca Centra opened. It was sold to George Johnston who converted it into a very nice home.

Old records of rate payers on First Line S.S. No. 12 show names by the names of Lash, Dyke, Robertson, Wesley, Father Park, Braithwaite, Tomlinson, Lounsbury, and Robertson to mention a few.

Some early teachers on the First Line S.S. No. 12 were J. Newton Swayze, Hutton Robertson, Miss Hall, Warner Weaver, Rose Pearl and Wesley Hedley.

This section is remarkable in producing many who went into professions in spite of the fact that it was not easy to avail oneself of an education in those days. Miss Parker lists the following: Dr. John Mosher, Dr. Arthur Weaver, Rev. P. Overend, Rev. John Mosher, Dr. Hutton Robertson, mention Kate, Annie, Anne and Irene Mosher, teachers. A great many of these going on to become high school teachers. Clara and Sara Parker, Russel Johnson, John Hedley, Wesley Hedley, all teachers.

— S.S. No. 13 COOK'S —

Information supplied by Mr. W. Hall

The original school was on the east side of the railroad built before the railroad went through prior to 1852. It was one of the first schools in Seneca and was frame. It was later turned into a store kept by Mrs. [illegible]. About 1845 a storage consisting of seventy-five barrels was erected almost [illegible] Malone. Many of the men were employed in big saw mills.

The second school was built in 1853. The land was purchased from

Squire Young on the Young Tract. It was a brick school built by Mr. Baker from Cayuga.

In 1921 the third school was built by Mr. Mel Runchey of York at a cost of $1,800. This frame building at the present is used as a residence. When the attendance became small prior to the opening of the Central School there was an interchange of pupils between Cook's and S.S. No. 13 using one school.

Mr. Hall's first teacher in S.S. No. 13 was Jessie Baker, a half sister of Colin Baker. He also remembers Miss Huggins, a cousin of Arthur Bain, Miss Martha Foster and Mr. James Scott.

In his possession is a book, Fifth Book of Lessons for the Use of Schools. It was authorized by the Council of Public Instruction for Upper Canada and published in Toronto in 1843. The pupils of today would find it most labourious with its fine print and lack of pictures.

Mr. Hall has a collection of shining glass and silver, beautiful cut pieces which graced the mantelpieces and dining room tables of our grandmothers, a joy to behold.

— SENECA 2A —

In 1950 a school was begun on a lot donated by Caledonia Gypsum Lime and Asbestos Company free of charge, directly north of the railroad track and east of Highway No. 6 at Caledonia. At this time Caledonia Public School had become overcrowded. Several pupils from Seneca living on the outskirts of the village who had been in attendance at the Caledonia school had to be relocated. This school, which was opened in 1951 was built on a temporary basis at a cost of $35,000 for building and equipment. There was a senior room with Mrs. Blanche Baker as teacher of the four upper grades and a junior room with Mrs. Velma Young the teacher. When Seneca Unity opened it was sold to the Caledonia Candy Company. At the time of writing it is again being used as a school for an overflow of Caledonia Public School.

SENECA CENTRAL No. 1 —

In the year 1956 the trustees of Seneca Township School Area realizing the coming need of more classrooms owing to the increase in population, the scarcity of qualified teachers willing to teach eight grades and also the poor conditions of some of the old one room schools began talking about a Central School. This soon resulted in action and at the end of February they met with the Council to discuss the matter. They voted in favour of a central school.

Mr. W. W. Allen was engaged as architect, and ten acres of land was purchased from Mrs. Vera Cummings at a cost of $3000. It is the southeast corner of the south half of Lot 16, Concession 4, one mile west of Empire Corners.

I.P.S., worked in close co-operation with the Board

General Proficiency — A. A. Leckie

— SENECA UNITY SCHOOL —

cost of approximately $120,000

Institute served refreshments.

an Art Bursary made yearly by Riverside W I

— SCHOOLS IN GENERAL —

Unity

...ce on time and very few days have been lost due to the efficiency of ... Bruce Edwards [illegible] Principal Superintendent. At the beginning the ... were started by Robert Nash and Peter McKenzie. It was said his ... to Mr. and Mrs. Stacey's reach who now transport the children ... both schools. Peter became employed by the West Township and Bruce ... award and picked up necessary pupils of the township.

Teachers and pupils take an active interest in the County Fair at ... exhibiting ... ing art books and various projects and are ... winners. Each year in the Spring there is a ... of which parents and friends are invited to enjoy a display by the pupils ... by the staff with the valuable assistance of Mrs. [illegible] ... and Mrs. ... Classrooms are open for guests to view the pupils' work. ... during the school year parties are held to parents conferring ... mutual and helpful time for parents and teachers. The Principal's ... open at all times to parents who have any problems as to the progress of their children.

On February 15, 1965 the new Canadian Flag was flown on the school flagpole for the first time on January 1, 1965. A ... was presented in honour of Sir John A. Macdonald's birthday.

SCHOOL SPORT IN SENECA TOWNSHIP

By Bruce MacDonald

Before the central schools were built in the township the only sports ... between schools were ... an occasional mixed softball game.

Then in 1964 the Seneca ... met at York where a ... track and field meet was held. Winners from this were then entered in a county meet at the Farmers' Picnic in Kohler.

With the coming of central schools came a better organized series of sports ... township and county meets. These principals ... Mr. ... Mr. Stacker (Caledonia) and Mr. Lawrence (Seneca) ... were responsible for setting up a county sports system. In Seneca a ... were held between Seneca schools (Seneca and Caledonia). In the winter there ... play between Jarvis and Caledonia. Winners from each ... then compete in a minor sports day. Although the Seneca ... have never been represented they have been good competitors in ... games.

... schools have entered the Junior Boys Invitational ... held in the fall arena. The first year that Seneca Central entered ... was the tournament. Since then Seneca has been ... with a ... ship but in 1967 Seneca ... the final game to be ... by [illegible]. Mike Evans ... greatest ... was selected as the outstanding tournament player.

In summer ... competitions boys and girls softball teams ... In 1965 Seneca ... won the ... championship with what is now the core of the Yorkette Ball Club.

In track and field competitions each school sends ... representatives ... each event in each of three age ... Seneca ... a ... track and field ... Points are recorded at the meet and trophies are presented ... and boys champions as well as to the schools ... the greatest number of points.

In 1965 both Seneca schools were quite successful with Seneca ... capturing the school trophy. Central also had Seneca ... Kenneth ... Isabel Jackson ... girls ... Harold ... and Jerry ... champions. Seneca ... Seneca ... that year ... girls team champions. Car Farmers and Arthur Lewis ... runner-up.

Gisell Hartog.

Seneca Unity has commenced an intramural sports program involving year round competition in most phases of outdoor sports

Sports have certainly come a long way in the township the old mixed ball games to the present schedules zonal games from the "pick up" games of shinny on the unsafe ice of the old creek — to the pre-arranged games of hockey and broomball on the artificial ice surface of Caledonia arena

Staff in 1967 at Seneca Central

Mr. Barry Dear, Principal
Mrs. Ameha Tomlinson
Mr. James Killins
Mrs. Muriel Hanson
Miss Elaine Bruttocoa
Mrs. Margaret Banks
Mrs. Mary Turnbull
Miss Doreen Johnston — Principal's Supply
Attendance — 205

Staff in 1967 at Seneca Unity

Mr. Ed. Burnside — Principal
Mr. Bruce Macdonald
Mrs. Mona Whitwell
Mrs. Muriel Creighton
Mrs. Marie Kerr
Miss Jean Sharp
Mrs. Marjorie Marshall — Principal's Supply
Attendance — 180

The first Principals Mr Milbert Mounk, Central, and Mr Richard Lawrence, Unity, had a vast amount of work in the organization and administration of these new schools Both were called into secondary education at the Cayuga Technical and Commercial School Their successors, Mr Barry Dear and Mr Ed Burnside have continued in an equally competent manner Having worked with most of these gentlemen, the writer can state that they have shown a certain dedication to their schools in the best interests of the girls and boys of Seneca

— TOWNSHIP SCHOOL AREA —

Township School Area

The Board of School Trustees of the Township School Area of the Township of Seneca was formed in December 1946, having jurisdiction over all schools in the Township Members of this first Board were Eric Lindsay, Chairman, Allan Scott, Secretary Treasurer, R N Moore. Andrew Jackson, Oliver Young. Morley Johnston.

As early as 1873, Mr Harcourt recommended a Township Board as a something which will give a great, a healthful, and an immediate impetus for good for our Public Schools. Uniformity, he stated, which is surely highly desirable, and with it ever increasing efficiency, can in all these points be obtained by the system of Township Trustees

From the minute book of Indiana school a circular dated November 13, 1879, from Hon. Adam Crooks, Minister of Education in reference to Township Boards of Trustees was submitted and discussed The general opinion was adverse to any change from the present system

Members of the School Board are elected by the voters of the

Myslop, Mrs. Aileen Scott, Secretary-Treasurer

SUPERINTENDENTS

From files of Mr T R Brown, I.P.S

reported on the schools as follows

power to give certificates to teachers or annul them

hay while the sun shines'

— INSPECTORS —

By the Separate School Act of 1863 the Township Superintendents were abolished being replaced by a County Superintendent appointed by the County Council. He was to be a good man together a graduate of the Provincial Normal School and have a minimum of 5 years experience. There became 4 such as Public Schools Inspectors of County Inspectors. Hammond's first appointment as was noted in the county Council Minutes of 1st [illegible] was Mr. [illegible] Mr. [illegible] salary for the first half year was [illegible]. Mr. Hammond was of Irish descent having come to the village of York from Ireland in 1811. His father's name was [illegible]. Mr. Hammond had taught school in York and in Scarborough before his appointment. He had been principal of [illegible] when he retired at his own request. He died in [illegible] and never practised law. He died in office but in case the [illegible] Hammond has been named Minister of Education in the Mowat Government.

In December 1871 Mr. Hammond was succeeded by Mr. Charles Moore who had been a teacher in the Hamilton Grammar School. Some idea of the productivity of [illegible] may be gained by a reference to the work of Mr. Moore. He lived in Scarborough and carried on his work in the county by the use of the railroad and horse-back. He would visit each school by the end of the year. Meeting with his trustees and boards of experts at the schools and both in the [illegible] spring. He rarely was able to return before the end of the week. If he [illegible] have a trip to make from one town to the next he would leave at 5 a.m. or [illegible] to make the next by 11:30 if the roads were good. The good old days would [illegible] were an hours that [illegible] and have to get out to push the wheel from the mud or [illegible] where he broke his horse to push and pull it. It is no wonder that under conditions such as this Mr. Moore has been reported to have a record of the schools visited by teachers to teach a particular lesson, promptly put his feet on the desk and went to sleep for a couple of hours.

The work of the inspector has really changed very little since the Act of 1871. Greater and greater stress has been placed on him for the supervision of examinations. [illegible] he [illegible] was very [illegible] to have a University degree and [illegible] to remove him from the pressure of [illegible] politics, he was made a provincial appointment.

Hammond resigned and resigned as [illegible] Superintendents and County Inspectors. [illegible] remarked that for [illegible] eight years [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Mr. Hammond, Mr. Charles Moore and Mr. J. J. Mackenzie between them dominated the educational scene from 1844 to 1943.

— SEPERATE SCHOOLS —

In 1857 the Separate School in Scarborough opened for children of Roman Catholic faith of [illegible] and surrounding district. This was a [illegible] the [illegible] school and its members grew [illegible] more rooms were added. Today's children who attend are transported by the Separate School Bus. The [illegible] Sister Patrick. There is also a Separate School established in Cayuga.

About 1960 a [illegible] school was built on Highway 48 near Cedar Field in Scarborough. Some [illegible] on the N. [illegible] diocese of Bishop Macarthy. This school was named for Bishop Macarthy School. It [illegible] as a regular school for [illegible] short time. A [illegible] of which [illegible] the [illegible] Adult Education Centre with Mr. Brian Dent as instructor.

— SECONDARY EDUCATION FOR SENECA PUPILS

When elementary school was completed Seneca pupils could attend two High Schools or Grammar Schools as they were first known. one at Cayuga, begun in 1851 and one at Caledonia, begun in 1853. At that time in Caledonia, part of the Public School was used for a Grammar School When the accommodation became insufficient for all pupils. in the winter of 1874 a new Grammar School was opened in a room over Dr Burns' office on Caithness St. It was here that Mr Clarke Moses came as a teacher.

An addition of four rooms was made to the Caledonia School in 1877, one room of which was used for Model School and the other three for High School. In that year, there were sixty in attendance at Caledonia High and forty at Cayuga High In the Model School that same year there were 12 teachers-in-training in the fall term and 13 in the spring term One of the duties of the County Inspector was to lecture in Model School

It is interesting to note that a former Prime Minister of Canada taught in Caledonia High School for one year This was near the end of the nineteenth century and in 1911, Mr Arthur Meighen returned to Caledonia no less a person than the Solicitor-General of Canada to speak on behalf of the Reciprocity Treaty

A new High School was built in Caledonia to be opened in 1924. with Mr T J. Hicks as Principal Mr Hicks had first come to Caledonia in 1913 and many Seneca girls and boys attended during his term of office. Mr Ottlo Clark is principal in 1967

With the opening of the new Technical and Commercial School at Cayuga in 1963. secondary students of Seneca are divided between these two schools according to the courses which they choose to take The Principal at Cayuga, Mr Gordon Saunders, taught in Seneca for some time at the Locks. The Supervising Principal of both these schools in the West Haldimand District is Mr Ernest Smith.

Military History of Seneca Township

By Robin S. Kerr

The history of Canada has been determined in no small way by the farmers and military personnel of many who have settled here. The land their contemporaries have bequeathed us a noble and glorious heritage

Any history of the Grand River or the greater area of Seneca township would be incomplete without some reference to the military origins and service of many of its people

The early survey and settlement was a result of the outcome of the British-American War or the American Revolution of [illegible]

During the conflict the Iroquois Nations were joined by the Six Nations Indians under Chief Joseph Brant who was then three years old. The Indians formed the largest part of the Mohawk Forces and at the outbreak of war the Iroquois gave the Mohawk Valley and the troops retreated to the fort at Fort Niagara with their followers in [illegible] using the fort as a base from which to continue the war by way of raids and attacks on the rebel-held area

In the Spring of 1[illegible] the fighting here at Niagara was made up of British Regulars and Militia under [illegible] and [illegible] and the Indian War forces under Chief Brant. They remained unconquered at the ends the war

The Treaty of Paris [illegible] closed the [illegible] War and Fort Niagara became part of the United States. To be recognized the treaty. The Iroquois got the Indians who remained were in Canada and the British Government made plans for their removal to Canada

The negotiations for settlement of this area were started on May 2[illegible] 1784 between the Mississauga and other tribes at Niagara and were carried on at Detroit with the British Regulars stationed along the Niagara frontier

The meeting was called by Sir John Johnson, Indian agent for the British Government to arrange for the just claims of the Grand River and for the settlement by the Six Nations. A deed was made and signed by Six Nations Chiefs and principal Warriors of the Mississauga Indians the just claims of the Six Nations people [illegible] to whatever it [illegible] Haldimand [illegible] on behalf of the Crown on October [illegible] according to the Six Nations a strip of land six miles wide on the each side of the River [illegible] Grand River from its source to its mouth to be a perpetual home for the tribes

The Indians had become closely associated with the white people and their farmers and when they came to their new lands on the Grand River invited many of their comrades to settle with them. By this purchase certain tracts were laid out and granted to the whole Mohawk Nation. The two tracts in Seneca township are the Young or the Senior Tracts. [illegible] was the date of the first white settlement on the Grand River. Major Henry Young an officer of the British Indian Affairs with his two sons Robert Abraham [illegible] Warner and John and Adam Young a [illegible] Hunter [illegible] Mohawks were given Henry and Daniel settled on these two tracts.

By [illegible] the white population had reached [illegible] on the Young and Senior tracts. Those who [illegible] the war were in the Haldimand and Lincoln Militia and other units in the Niagara area

There were a number of Indians in the area some living at York

[illegible] and the other Indians of the Haldimand Tract made a great contribution to the British Cause in the War

The Indians were in most of the Battles of Northern Ontario at Beaver Dams Stoney Creek [illegible] and [illegible] at Queenston Heights where Gen John Brant by his courage and example as well as the fighting qualities of his Indians did much towards the final repulse of American Invasion. Some historians claim the Battle of Queenston Heights was the deciding battle in the War of 1812. An [illegible] was erected in memory of [illegible] John Brant and a park in Brantford. He was later elected to be the first Member of Parliament for Haldimand

A recent search found recently shows that John Norton was appointed Quarter Master of Fourth Lincoln Militia on [illegible] Robert Nelles Esq was Lieutenant Colonel of that Regiment. Another source was that John A Norton was appointed Lieutenant in 1st Lincoln Militia in April 1812 This Regiment was under command of Lieutenant [illegible] Nelles

The American Civil War 1861 and the Fenian Scare 1866 had an influence on the Military thinking of the people of this area

In 1861 The York Rifles [illegible] was organized on December 9 by Capt S H Jones and was gazetted August 1862 [illegible] of the Capt Jones was at Norval 1866 [illegible] in action at Ridgeway with the Fenians June 2nd and at Stratford and Toronto the same year It was a unit in the Queens Own Rifles of Toronto as No 2 Co The York and Caledonia Companies are referred to as the Queens Own Rifles of Canada Companies and were in the main part of the engagement

Excerpt from letter of A A Jones York Militia dated June 6 1866

Left Port Dover yesterday morning escorting 43 prisoners with whom I had to proceed to Toronto I arrived at about 1 P M took and took them to the gaol The greatest excitement was ever saw The people wanted to take the prisoners and [illegible] them I had in charge between me them, and get an escort of cavalry"

The Fenian Raids made the people conscious of the need for greater military organization In September 1866 the York [illegible] and the [illegible] of Queens Volunteer Militia was organized September 28 1866 with head quarters at York.

The field and staff officers were Lt Col R H Jones Majors Thompson and Gordon Surgeons McPherson and Baxter Paymaster Harcourt and Quartermaster R H Nelles The Captain of No 1 Company in 1867 was A. Williamson of York

In 1900 the battalion was redesignated as [illegible] Regiment Haldimand Rifles perpetuating the [illegible] Haldimand [illegible] It was reorganized in 1921 and disbanded December 31st 1936 when it amalgamated with the Lincoln & Welland Regiment and [illegible] Militia to form the Dufferin and Haldimand Rifles of Canada

And so in 1936 the Regiment lost its identity as a Haldimand unit after 70 years Until 1936 the York Rifles of Queens Own Rifles and No 1 Company 13th Battalion were the [illegible] a green uniform of the British Rifle Companies In June 1914 the Regiment went into camp at Niagara for the first time in khaki They had [illegible] the new Ross Rifles having previously used various models of Lee Enfield

The battalion was at summer camp at York for many years and also at Niagara A large drill shed and armoury was built at the battalion headquarters at York for the summer training there

The Rifle Range was about one half mile south of York on the Harold French farm with the firing positions for the rifle range on the

west side of the river and the shorter ranges on the east side with the hills towards the east as a back stop

The band of the regiment at York was under the direction of Professor Perlar after 1905. Later James Kerr led the band until 1914. Then the band was the Regiments Indian Band which in later years adopted the Native Indian costume and became famous in Canada and the United States.

In the South African War 1899 three members of York Company 37 Battalion served. They were Lieutenant W. H. Nesbitt D.C.M. killed in action Captain J. F. Macdonnell and Sergeant F. J. Weir.

In the First World War 1914-1918 the 109th Battalion was the basis for the formation of the Brooks Rangers. The inscription on their Roll was "The Brooks Rangers Who Served Overseas Canada for King and Country." They were recruited in Macdonnell and the Six Nations to serve. The title Rangers was applied to give recognition to the Six Nations who had been associated with the title since the Revolutionary War.

Lt. Col. A. T. Thompson went overseas in command of the Regiment and his two men Major Walker and Major Andrew as 2nd in command.

While this was the principal unit of the area many more served in other ranks of the service in the Army, Navy and Airforce.

The names of Seneca residents who served in the First World War are listed on a bronze memorial plaque in the Municipal Office at York.

This plaque was presented in 1919 to the township by Mrs. C. Martindale, president of the Yord Red Cross Society.

WORLD WAR — 1914-1918

Those who died overseas F. C. Baker G. W. Brett F. Chaffey J. Connors N. T. Hewitt J. Hannah F. Lambourne J. Lowman W. H. Mitchell L. Parkin W. Parker A. Robinson W. Smith J. H. Young.

Those who served overseas A. Addison T. Atkinson H. Ackerman W. H. Anderson R. Baker F. Baker H. Baker B. Bain J. Bird A. Brownman N. V. Brown A. Brown J. Cantlon H. Clowe D. Corbett J. Cox R. Dunn J. Dunn H. Edwards A. Fraser C. Fogg W. Hampton H. Hampton D. Hemphill F. Hannah N. Hartman P. Henry H. Hewson F. Jempson A. Jones C. A. Johnston P. Lee A. Lee T. A. Latimer J. Little C. J. Martindale C. J. Martin J. Myers J. McLean W. McLean W. Neals F. Page P. Parker M. Phelps R. Pollard R. Potter B. Roberts J. Renwick A. Robinson C. Sadler J. Scott H. Shaw P. Smith H. Smith N. Smith S. Staples N. Tesler A. T. Thompson A. R. Thompson W. H. Thompson J. Templeton H. Tinson N. Tinson A. Trenbeth C. True W. Whales A. Whicher J. Williams A. W. Williamson H. Young W. A. Young.

The regimental colours of Brooks Rangers and the 109 Battalion hang in the main hall of Kelvin Castle on the Thompson estate.

In the war of 1939-1945 many residents of Seneca township served in various units of the army, navy and airforce.

A Remembrance Day Service was held in the Seneca Township Hall in York on Sunday November 14 1947. The Memorial Tablet with the names of those who made the supreme sacrifice in World War II and those who served their King and Country was donated by the township council. The tablet was unveiled by Charles Martin M.P.P. and Mr. Arthur Bain placed a wreath at the base of the plaque. J. H. Cummings Reeve of Seneca read the Honour Roll which is as follows:

Those who made the supreme sacrifice were Ned Bain Thos.

Leslie Smith, and Alex Stelman

Patricia Young (Mrs. Frank Young)

Infantry Brigade with the rank of Brigadier

Squadron 114 in defence of Warsaw

held the rank of Flight Lieutenant.

in Seneca Township on part of the Nelles Tract

Two who have taken training since the war are Bruce Baker who is Lieutenant Commander in the air service of the Royal Canadian Navy with 25 years service and Martin Hamilton who is chief petty officer first class in the fleet air arm service in which he has served 21 years.

Federal And Provincial Government

This country was at one time known as western Quebec and the district was called Nassau one of four such districts named in 1788.

In 1791 the Constitutional Act was passed and Quebec became two provinces — Upper and Lower Canada.

John Graves Simcoe was the first Lieutenant-Governor of Upper Canada in 1792. Niagara now Niagara-on-the-Lake was the capital of the new province but it was soon moved to York, now Toronto. Simcoe divided the province into 19 counties.

From 1792 to 1850 there was considerable shifting of territory so it is difficult to get a clear picture. At one time Haldimand Co. which was named in 1850 after Governor Haldimand belonged in Niagara District. After 1816 the districts were changed making more districts one being the Gore District. It included Wentworth Co. and the Grand River Tract.

In 1788 Augustus Jones was sent as Deputy Provincial Surveyor. Thomas Welch in 1793 surveyed the Indian lands on the Grand River. John McCrae surveyed Seneca township about 1860. The townships were first given numbers and later names.

There are few deeds earlier than 1836 so it is difficult to learn much before that of early settlement.

It seems in 1850 Seneca Caledonia and Onondaga belonged to Haldimand and Brant Co. for municipal purposes and part of Wentworth Co. for judicial affairs.

Since Seneca township seems to have been in various groupings early official papers may be found in Brantford Hamilton or St. Catharines.

In 1850 the present plan of Haldimand Co. was formed and has remained the same since. How long will it remain? When will Haldimand Co. become part of a large unit? The future will bring its changes.

In Upper Canada the Haldimand Constituency was formed in 1836. Representatives of the county were John Brant — 2 days in 1840, Colonel Warren — 1830-32, and William H. Merritt — 1832-40.

In 1840 the Act of Union was passed to reunite the provinces of Upper and Lower Canada. The two parts were then named Canada West and Canada East. Members from Haldimand who have been elected to the Legislative Assembly of the new Province of Canada were: David Thompson — 1841-51, Wm. Dunn Macdonnell — 1851-58, Michael Harrison — 1858-63, and David Thompson, Jr. — 1863-67.

On July 1, 1867 when John A. Macdonald was prime minister of the Province of Canada the British North America Act became effective after many years of planning. The former province of Canada was divided into Ontario and Quebec and they with Nova Scotia and New Brunswick united to form the Dominion of Canada with Sir John A. Macdonald as prime minister. That date 100 years ago is why this year 1967 Canada is celebrating her one hundredth birthday her centennial.

The federal riding of Haldimand Co has shifted at different times The latest change in the federal riding is being made at the present time Federal members for the County of Haldimand to the House of Commons have been David Thompson, Jr , 1867 86 Hon W H Montague 1887 1900 Coulter 1896-97 and 1899 Co Andrew Thompson 1900 04 Frank R Lalor 1904 21 Mark Senn, 1921 49 Earl Catherwood 1949 53, John A Charlton, 1953-62, and Hon. Laurence Pennell, 1962-67

Mark Senn, who was born and raised in Oneida township was a friend to all and worked hard in the interest of his constituency and country His wife was Etta Moore of Seneca township daughter of Elgin Moore who lived where Fred Robinson lives The Senn family were faithful adherents of the York United Church The Thompson family is mentioned later

Members of the Haldimand constituency for the Ontario Legislative Assembly have been Hon Jacob Baxter 1867 94 1895 98 John Senn 1894 95 Joseph Wm Holmes 1898 1905 Jacob Kohler 1905 14 Dr Wm Jaques L R C S 1914 19 Warren Stringer 1919 23 Dr Richard Nixon Berry, 1923 26, 1929 34; Robert Francis Miller, 1926-29

Haldimand combined with Norfolk to form the riding of Haldimand Norfolk in 1934.

Richard Samuel Colter K C 1934 37 Hon Eric Wm Cross minister of Municipal Affairs and Public Welfare 1937 43, Wm W Walsh, 1943 Charles H. Martin, 1944-51, Hon. James N Allan, 1951-67

Political History of Haldimand County

By Kathleen and Isobel Moore

Haldimand County's real birth date was in the year 1850 In the same year the first County Council was formed and Cayuga was chosen as the county town The townships now comprising the county are exactly the same as at its organization

In the early history Haldimand contributed more public men to the Legislative Halls than almost any other county Some members have been such men as William Lyon Mackenzie Senator McCallum David Thompson, Hon Jacob Baxter Judge Coter Hon Dr Montague Hon Richard Harcourt, Hon. James R Edgar and Colonel Andrew T Thompson.

Other notable men who tried unsuccessfully to win seats for Haldimand were Wm Hamilton, Hon George Brown Nicholas Flood Davin, and Edmund E Sheppard of the Toronto Saturday Night.

From early records here are some interesting highlights At the time of the Union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1840 David Thompson Sr of Indiana in Seneca Township was elected the first representative for Haldimand in the Parliament of Canada He occupied this seat until his death in 1851

Colourful characters now came into the history of Haldimand in the persons of William Lyon Mackenzie and George Brown of the Toronto Globe Wm Lyon Mackenzie followed David Thompson and was elected in 1851 1855 and 1858, resigning in 1858 to be followed by Michael Harcourt of Seneca

Bertram Nelles in his book, Haldimand County 1785 1905 tells this interesting story Wm Lyon Mackenzie had a wonderful power in

making friends and confounding his opponents. When he attended one of Brown's meetings held in a barn, Mackenzie asked if Brown would allow him to speak after he was done He got his consent and promised not to interrupt, and asked the same courtesy, which was granted Brown spoke three hours without interruption but Mackenzie was not speaking five minutes before Brown was on his feet During one of his interruptions, a calf tied in the barn, started bawling Then Mackenzie turned on Brown and said, "I protest against this, one of you at a time, if you please" Brown did not dare to open his mouth again at that meeting. Mackenzie was a master hand in getting jokes on his opponent.

When Wm Lyon Mackenzie was campaigning in Haldimand County he made his headquarters with the Kinnear family at Decewsville On one occasion, when he was leaving for his home in Toronto, he presented the Kinnear children with New Testaments Judge Helen Kinnear presented one of these to the Historical Society at Cayuga, where it can be seen at the present time.

In 1863, David Thompson, son of the former member for Haldimand, was elected by a majority of eleven votes over Laughlin McCallum of Stromness, after two days voting McCallum was afterwards heard to remark in his broad Scotch. 'Ah! If I had only spent another hundred, I'd have had Davey."

David Thompson was successful in the first election after Confederation in 1867 and again in 1872, 1874. 1878. 1882 In 1872 and 1874, both general elections he was returned by acclamation. He died in 1886. His son, Colonel Andrew Thompson was elected in 1900, but defeated in 1904.

The Colonel's son, Major Drew Thompson, was appointed Master of the Black Rod in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa On his retirement, he settled in his home "Alfriston", overlooking the Grand River, just west of "Ruthven", and became a well-known person in the surrounding districts. He passed away in 1961.

At the present time, Haldimand has two worthy representatives, Hon. Lawrence Pennell as Solicitor General in Ottawa, and Hon James Allan, who was Minister of Highways, then Treasurer of Ontario, and is now Chairman of Niagara Parks Board

Seneca, with its five polling booths, still continues to take an active part in the political history of Haldimand County

TOWNSHIP OF SENECA COUNCIL — 1967

SEATED—Glen Howley, Morley Johnston Reeve, Clayton Smith, Deputy Reeve
STANDING—Eric Lindsay, Clerk, Bruce Whaley Mrs James Troubridge, Treasurer, Jack Young, Bruce Edwards, Road Superintendent

Municipal Government In Seneca

Material supplied by Mr Harry Young

When Haldimand County was formed in 1850 Seneca Municipal council was also formed with a Reeve and four councillors elected

In 1850 Seneca Township council consisted of Richard Brown Reeve Jacob Young Michael Hartwart Wm. Park and Robert Young Councillors and Alfred Brown, clerk

In 1851 there was a reeve deputy reeve and three councillors

This was the pattern until 1888 when again there was a reeve and four councillors Now in this centennial year Seneca has a deputy reeve again They have always met at York

The names of citizens in Seneca which have held the office of Reeve Deputy Reeve Councillor Clerk Tax Collector Treasurer and Assessor represent many families from every section of the township

In the beginning the councillors were elected one for each of the five wards and the council then selected their own reeve and deputy reeve until 1867, when the present system was adopted

Roads bridges schools by laws and Statute of Labour were most of the problems the council had to deal with Flood damage to the river road each year meant more repairs There were over 20 pathmasters in charge of the roads.

In 1858 money was changed from pounds shillings and pence to dollars and cents

The schools received money from the clergy reserve fund which was divided evenly among the schools until 1861 In 1869 there was the first tax levy for public school purposes

In 1887 the tax collector Mr James Ramsay received $30.00 for delivering the tax bills over the entire township by horse and buggy

In 1908 application for franchise was received from Bell Telephone Company and in 1913 two companies applied for franchise to lay gas pipe

In the 1930's the depression years affected the economy of everyone

In 1946 the Seneca School area was formed and five trustees were nominated and elected same as the township council

In 1952 the term of office for council and school board was increased from one to two years

Buildings constructed were the first township hall built in 1852 for 395 pounds by Wm Hutton the second town hall built in 1908 at a cost of 1291 dollars by Mel Kitchen and James Gordon and the present municipal offices built in 1965-66 by Brenau Construction Company

In 1947 a machine shop was built by Haldimand Co-op Association for $2,500.00 on a lot purchased from J. Lyons and in 1961 a road maintenance shed was built on a lot bought from Jos Shannon

In 1887 an expense sheet showed that councillor services averaged $18.00 and salaries for treasurer Jacob Young was $35.00 for assessor Arthur Somerton was $40.00 and for tax collector James Kerr was 1% of taxes collected They even had relief there $4 $5 a month The pay sheet for each month was $150 to $250

The Seneca Township Council in 1867 consisted of David Young Sr Reeve Alexander McCall Deputy Reeve George Whitham George Geoffrey and Robert Hodgeth councillors and Wm Hurwood clerk

Following is a list of reeves clerks and treasurers in the township

Reeves were Richard Brown — 1850 Paul Park 1851 and 1853 Jacob Turner — 1851 52 Edward Baker 1853 54 David Young Sr 1856-58 1860 63 and 1865 Robert Hudspeth 1859 Thomas Craven — 1864 Adam A Davis — 1866 69 1875 1885 James McNiven 1869 1872 F A Nelles — 1886 87 and 1895 Wm H Hull — 1888 92 Wm Clark — 1894 95 James Lytle — 1896 Wm J Ramsay 1897 1900 Alexander Young 1901 Robert J Trimble 1902 04 Nathan Kerr — 1904 John Robinson 1905 07 Daniel Fraser — 1908 09 David F Young 1910 12 Thomas Shipway 1913 1922 23 Lewis McClung — 1914 John Turnbull Sr 1915 Abraham Armenton — 1916 17 W S Hudspeth — 1918 21 Samuel Scott 1924 27 E J Hyslop 1928 29 Harry A Hewitt — 1930 32 R S Kerr — 1933 35 Frank B Bird — 1936 46 Harry Cummings 1947 50 Arley F Landman 1951 54 Frank A Young 1955-61 Walker Hedley — 1962-64; Morley Johnston — 1964-67

Citizens of Seneca who have held the position of warden in Haldimand Co were Jacob Turner — 1852 David Young — 1863 Adam A Davis 1877 1880 F A Nelles — 1886 W H Hull — 1898 David Thompson — 1863 N H Wickett — 1869 James Lytle 1905 W S Hudspeth 1921, Robin Kerr — 1935, and Frank B. Bird — 1946

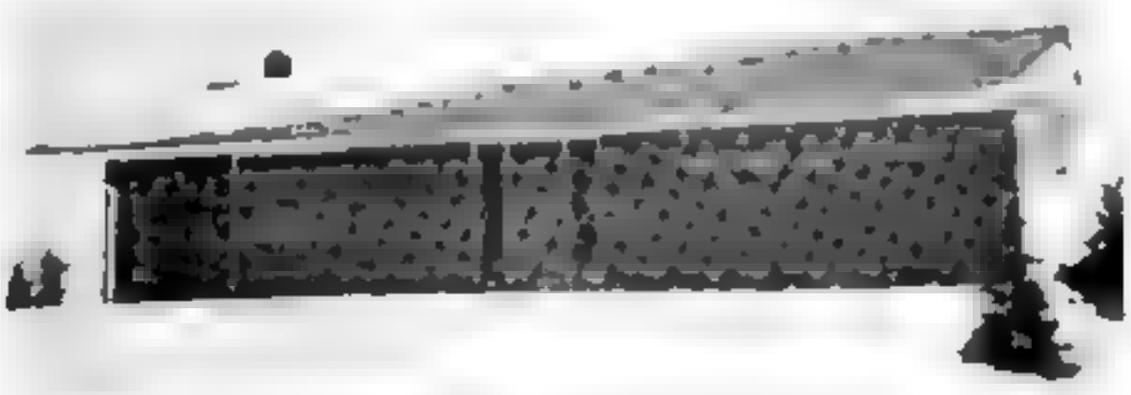
Clerks of the Township have been Alfred Brown — 1850 51 William Russell 1852 65 Andrew Williamson — 1866 1901 N H Wickett 1901 18 C J Martindale 1919 1926 W S Hudspeth 1926 1932 H A Hewitt — 1933 1945 Harry Young — 1946 1962 and Bruce Lindsay — 1962-67

Treasurers of Seneca have been Dennis Young — 1850 63 Jacob Young 1863 71 Adam A Davis — 1872 N H Wickett 1881 87 Andrew Williamson 1888 1904 Alexander Young 1905 Robert Young 1905 Robert Trimble 1906 1913 N H Crawley 1914 1956 C S Werden — 1956-1965, Mrs. James Troubridge — 1966-67

Mention should be made of Thomas Gowland and Bruce Edwards who have served as road superintendents

Mr Hary Young has a summary of all the council meetings from 1850 to the present day which is quite complete

Seneca township's centennial project was the erection of the new municipal offices at York.



Seneca Municipal Offices erected as Seneca Township's Centennial Project and officially opened on July 29, 1967

TRANSPORTATION

By Mrs. Mac Stoneman

and descended it in a canoe.

drawn by oxen were used

times

by the Company's dam at that point

cessary to rebuild a number of them

navigation

pried off

late as 1860

a bridge was built across the river at Seneca

stages ran between Caledonia and Cayuga daily

weather

across to Canboro and eastward to Niagara

to replace the wilderness

the centre of business.

Grand River grant in 1832.

made bids to have the railway built through their towns and the route was finally decided through Caledonia. However it was not completed until twenty years later. It crossed the Township of Seneca and formed the principal outlet in the direction of Hamilton and Toronto.

The locomotives were of the wood burning type and two were known as the John Scott and the Lucy Turner. In the 1870's the only boats coming up the Grand River to Caledonia were those bringing plaster from York which was teamed to the station to be shipped by rail.

Hogs and cattle were taken by horse and wagon to the buyer Mr. Dan Kelly and shipped weekly to Hamilton. Also hundreds of tons of baled hay and straw were drawn in the early 1900's to the hay buyer Mr. H. B. Morrall, in Caledonia.

In 1852 the Haldimand County Council made a grant of 200 pounds for County Roads but the ratepayers refused to ratify such a large amount. Even in that day a motion was made to curb immoderate riding and driving over certain county roads. On Sundays churchgoers were exempt from paying on toll roads. In time the whole road system was taken over by the County and tolls abolished.

In 1879 the roads were described as being hard and smooth and at that time there were no gravel roads. No mention is made of their condition during long wet periods! Quite a contrast to our present gravel and hard topped roads which are well maintained and kept open in winter for the residents and many school buses which traverse the township.

COMMUNICATIONS

The mail was brought seven times a week from Hamilton by stage coach to Seneca Village. In 1851 the contractor was Milton Davis who received 187 pounds per year. He also made six trips a week to Dunnville.

Some of the rules of the postmaster general were that 15 minutes only be allowed for changing horses at each stage and 7 minutes for changing mail. Each courier was to be provided with a post horn which was to be sounded distinctly on arriving at a post office.

The post rate was 3 pence per half ounce prepayment optional.

The early letters were just folded and sealed with sealing wax and stamped paid. In April 1851 postage stamps were issued. In 1868 it cost 5c prepaid and 7c if unpaid to send a letter to any part of Canada.

A business card of 1879 announced that the Royal Mail stage between Cayuga and Caledonia would leave Cayuga each morning at six o'clock arriving in time for morning trains and returning would leave Caledonia at 2.30 p.m. E. J. Wigg was the general proprietor who ran the stage for many years.

When the C.N.R. went through Seneca in 1852 Seneca township gave a grant of $20,000.00 to build a station house with the understanding that a telegraph office be installed. This was known as York Station, now Seneca Station.

Ensley Young and others used to draw mail from York Station to York. He used a democrat and would carry passengers to and from the station for a small fee.

Miss Catharine Flagg was the telegraph operator for the system installed in 1881 in Weir store, York. When Miss Flagg married Wm.

Mellon and they operated their own store, the telegraph was moved to their store and Mrs. Mellon continued as operator The call letter for York was "K" It was useful during elections to obtain the results and was used by Mr Lew Harris, who shipped horses from the west and many other purposes.

— HERITAGE —

Within this book of hist'ry
Are deeds you will recall,
Foundations for the future
To be yet lived by all
This year's our nation's birthday,
A century of life.
The birthday of this nation
Had been a bitter strife.
This township can remember
When blood and life were spilled,
When land was cleared by Loyalists,
When virgin fields were tilled
As pioneers lived so bravely
Their hardships one by one,
Did questions rise within them? —
"What heritage for my son?"
This heritage they gave us
Of hope, of will, and pride,
Of love of land, of freedom —
For this some sons have died
Some sons grew old, and also
Gave sons our soil to till
Now, though they lie forever,
Ancestral bloods flow still
And though our Seneca Township
Boasts changes from the old,
This heritage they gave us
We'll never let grow cold
A nation's hundredth birthday
In centuries to come
What heritage will we have left
The future Seneca sons?
A love for God, for country,
For doing each his best,
To be within Canadian.
Have faith, He'll do the rest.

TOWNSHIP OF SENECA CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

SEATED—Mrs Mac Stoneman, Milbert Mounk Chairman Robin Kerr Mrs John H NeLes, Secretary, Mrs Walker Hedley

STANDING—Eric Lindsay, Bruce Edwards, Mrs Adam Marshall Miss Kathleen Moore, Mrs Murray Kill man, Murray Killman, artist, Jack Brenzil building contractor, Morley Johnston

RESOURCES and INDUSTRY

[illegible] is a reassuring picture

[illegible] advised to study reforestation.

[illegible] also shipped. Oak was also used for ship building

[illegible] walnut became fashionable for furniture

[illegible] Brenzil, assessor, 1928-34.

[illegible] plant in Canada adjacent to the Arabastuc Co.

[illegible] the Canada Plaster Board Co.

The Company now known as Domtar is one of the many plants operated by the Company with interest in various fields

Mr Robert Slack of Empire operates the Slack Transport Ltd from its headquarters on No 6 highway His trucks leave Domtar daily with huge loads of wallboard They transport lumber and other products as well

Since the early 1900's many gas wells in Seneca township were drilled mostly by the Dominion Gas Co and Port Colborne Gas Company

The Dominion Gas Co built a pump station at Blackheath in 1913 It was transferred to one built on No 6 highway about 1950

The drilling rigs of the past were complete units which required many teams of horses to move The money paid for gas leases on farms was often used to help pay the farm taxes

Domtar at Caledonia used gas in their engines to develop power Many homes use gas for heat and cooking

At the present time, most of the gas wells are shut off the lines Some farmers bought gas wells for their own use The only company now in Seneca is the Union Gas Co which imports gas It provides one of the finest gas services of any in Ontario

Bob Hoover, who commenced a business in plumbing heating and air conditioning in Caledonia, in 1952, moved his business to No 6 highway, Seneca, in 1960

The travelling public may purchase gasoline at Gordon Bates garage Blackheath Harold Longmire Store at Empire Martindale Store at York or Young's Service Station at Caledonia Byron Young also operates a restaurant with his service station

Modern methods have changed the needs of the residents Progress has produced the results to meet the demands of the present days The residents of Seneca keenly await the chadenge of the second century

Agriculture In Seneca Township

Material supplied by John Turnbull and Howard Young

The first requirement of the early settlers who came from every walk of life was to build a home They used logs, mostly of red and white pine These early settlers became expert with the axe as they cleared the country of the dense forest Timber not used was piled and burned Then they built stables for their livestock which were very few at first They cut roads through the bush built bridges to cross streams and built fences of stumps, later rails.

The first crops were grown among the stumps after the ground was worked by drags pulled by oxen Gradually the stumps rotted or were removed. Then the plough was used to turn the earth The first ploughs were mostly wooden with a white oak beam wooden mould board pointed with steel and a steel coulter Gradually changes were made till the one furrow walking plough came into general use This plough did most of the ploughing in Seneca until the tractor came in about 1920

Grain was broadcast by hand, cradled when ripe bound by hand drawn into the barn and stored until winter when it was flailed and cleaned Later reapers came in but the grain was still bound by hand Then threshing machines which consisted of a cylinder with a grated or

cradled fingers behind to let the grain through were available. More men joined in the threshing machine. Threshing machines had steam engines at this time when horses were used and even before that. Today the men have a much more complete separator the threshing machine.

Horses replaced oxen. Then steam followed by steam tractors and finally tractors supplied the power.

Hay was first cut with a scythe raked with a hand rake pitched on a waggon with a wooden fork and packed into the mow. The first mowers were cumbersome and cut about a four foot swath. Later two horses and wings were invented to unload the hay and take it the full length of the barn. Hay loaders based on chopped and horse into the barn.

The pioneers had to supply their own needs. They used wood for fuel and made their own furniture. Candles were made of fats obtained as were used for many. Feathers were used in pillows and beds and the wings were used for dusters. The ashes were leached to make lye and fat added to the lye to make both hard and soft soap.

These early settlers raised sheep to supply wool for clothing. The wool was washed carded spun on the spinning wheel and woven into cloth on the loom. Garments for summer and winter were made by hand from the wool. The first machines to card wool were at Rhein church. If the thread happened to break it had to be fixed at once or the results would be disastrous. Later treadle machines with a hand crank were made.

The early farmers had their day so mapped out and up with their long hours of labour. Evening bees also existed in a way of evening. Threshing days had pressing jobs and husking days were an opportunity to meet the neighbours. Dance parties were gay and lasted until early in the morning. The church and the school were the centres of the community life.

On April 15 1881 Dave Burgess who worked for Wm Moore owned a 10 ox team which had been obtained from Scotland on the farm now owned by Wm Wilson and they harvested 1 bushel of seed.

1785 - 1820 - 1867 - 1900 - 1930 - 1967. Time marches on. The Centennial Year finds Seneca township a prosperous farming community with modern conveniences available to all.

An agency for modern machinery in Caledonia Tractor Co.

The Allis Chalmers Agency in Canada was started in 1929 by Ogle Nelles when he sold the Harmer Co. Inc. having his headquarters at Thompson's farm.

In 1931 the Allis Chalmers purchased Harmer Ltd and in Canada still goes under the heading of Allis Chalmers Harmer Ltd.

In 1937 the first All Crop Harvester in Haldimand Co was purchased by Harold Meadows the father of Arthur Meadows one of the present owners of Caledonia Tractor Co.

Jake Jansen who started to work for Ogle Nelles in 1930 helped him build the present building in 1940. He rented this building from Mr Nelles after Mr Nelles went to work with Allis Chalmers Harmer Ltd as Salesman in 1941. Mr Jansen carried on the farm equipment business under the name of Caledonia Tractor and Supply Co.

From 1943 until 1948 Murray Hewitt worked for Jake Jansen and then he worked with Allis Chalmers Harmer Ltd. At the present time he is Farm Equipment Sales Manager for Eastern Canada.

In the fall of 1956 Jake Jansen sold the business to Lyle MacDougall and have since operated under the name of Caledonia Tractor Co. Which since it was purchased by the partnership of Howard Young and Arthur

Goshen who operate it under the present name of Lakeshore Tractor Co.

Farmers products for farm and home use are supplied by such as Martenson Store Yard J. W. Hoover [illegible] products and J. Edgar Smuck, both of Highway No. 6

A roadside stand operated by Warren and Joan Bates was such a success that they opened the Bates Farm Market on No. 6 Highway on July 14, 1965.

- DAIRYING —

The founders of the dairy industry in Berrien township were the early settlers. They skimmed cream from pans of milk at home to churn the butter they used. The large farm operations [illegible] the high [illegible] the butter boxes and packed [illegible] can [illegible] be seen at Miss Mary Hutty's "Century House" on Highway 6

The pioneer women also made cheese and the cheese and butter were traded and sold at the local stores and a Hamilton market. With the advent of the cream separator and this work was removed from the farm homes to the local cheese or butter factory

From a small beginning the dairy industry in Berrien township has developed [illegible] [illegible] are shipping milk to market or [illegible] in the previous year [illegible] the Board of Supervisors eight cows which the early farmers had to [illegible] must have 20 and some even have 30 to make a cream. The [illegible] has improved and the law requires that Grade A dairy shippers have milk houses to meet certain sanitary requirements. Milk which is for that [illegible] was shipped by rail is now shipped in bulk tanks. Mr. John [illegible] was Mr. Kenneth Wagoner and [illegible] Mr. Herbert Schaub Mr. Hugh Ammerman and Mr. [illegible] have served the cooperative [illegible] hauling milk or cream.

In the early days most of the farmers shipped cream for butter or milk for cheese. Mr. John [illegible] operated a cheese factory near Township Hall for owner of the Wolverine Hotel and the Town Hall. Mr. Barton Bond had a cheese factory a block on the north west corner of Chicago and Main Streets. The milk was [illegible] in cans [illegible] by patrons. In the Mr. [illegible] was one of the [illegible] Mr. Matthew Richardson of Buchanan [illegible] and [illegible] the business. He was [illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible] Mr. [illegible] Richardson to [illegible] to manage the business which [illegible] became known as [illegible] Dairy. There [illegible] numerous barges on several [illegible] when Mr. [illegible] brought his creamery to Berrien [illegible] Mr. Bond sold to the [illegible] and [illegible] operated Mr. [illegible] Johnson who was [illegible] of the [illegible] as branch manager. This [illegible] many [illegible] and [illegible] many dairy products. They [illegible] powdered dairy compounds.

Mr. Robert J. Thompson father of Harry Thompson started one of the first milk pickup routes in the township when he [illegible] milk to his own and his neighbors farms to the [illegible] Berrien Springs. This was [illegible] About 1920 he and his wife operated the first creamery in a small [illegible] across [illegible] Chamberlain. The milk was taken in cans [illegible] and the consumers' containers were filled

In 1923 Mr. Clifford Phipps [illegible] the Kingsley farm on the [illegible] where he and his father [illegible] Phipps had [illegible] in milk. This [illegible] is now the property of Messrs. Jim and Stephen Schaub.

Mr. Phipps erected a dairy and horse [illegible] about 1925 he erected a large barn at the opening of which he had a farm dance

which about 1500 people attended He had a herd of 40 milking cows. In 1936 he commenced pasteurization of milk

In 1944, Mr Phipps purchased the property of Mr George Miller where he built a dairy with a dairy bar and moved his business from the farm He then bought milk from farmers in the district. About 1956, Mr Phipps sold the business to Mr Ron Harrison who still supplies Caledonia and district with bottled milk

Fairs

The Haldimand County Agricultural Society was formed in 1834 when it received from the Governor General a donation of 5 pounds. Since then annual aid has been received In 1854 the Seneca and Oneida Agricultural Society was a thriving organization and Fairs were held annually at either or both of these villages. After the decline of these two villages the fair was moved to York, which was then the largest urban community in the County, and many people today remember with nostalgia the Fairs at York.

York Fair was known as the Western Branch Agricultural Society In 1867 the president was Isaac Geddes, Indiana and the secretary was Fred A Nelles, York Also in 1867 the president of the Haldimand Co. Agricultural Society was David Thompson, Indiana. and the secretary was Jacob Young. York. In 1900 York Fair was absorbed by Caledonia Fair

The only Fair in Haldimand County is now held in Caledonia for three days each year and has become a big attraction in the County It started in 1873 This is where 4-H Club members from all over the County hold their Achievement Day, as well as being the showcase for school work from all schools in the County Quite a number of Seneca residents are Directors of the Fair and one of them Thomas Hyslop, is the President of the Fair for this centennial year, 1967

EARLY FAMILIES

(Edited by Mrs. John H Nelles)

Letters interviews advertising and phone calls were used to procure the history of the pioneer families This record is not complete because in some cases some of the younger people do not possess any information about their ancestors When one person learned that his grandmother was one of a family of nineteen he discontinued his search

All this points to the value of preserving early records which is the purpose of this publication

Those farm histories with 1867 1967 are the century farms which have received century farm signs through the Junior Farmers Organization in Haldimand County by February 1 1967 The committee wishes to thank everyone who sent in farm and family histories The complete family records as they have been sent will be kept for future reference The committee regrets not having had time to contact every family in the township for its family history but believes the book contains a fair representation for the space available

A sincere tribute of respect and admiration is tendered all those valiant pioneers who have gone to their reward

THE BAIN FAMILY HILL HOUSE FARM

In 1831 Charles A Bain and his wife left Scotland for Canada It is interesting to note that he belonged to the same Masonic Lodge in Scotland as Sir Walter Scott He was a graduate of Edinburgh University and had chosen law as his profession

In Canada Charles Bain had a furniture store at the foot of the Stoney Creek road In 1835 he moved to Hill House and in 1838 bought the land River Range Lot 20 23 from the government The surrender which the Bains still have is signed by forty Indian Chieftains In 1840 James Bain built the present Hill House which is still standing In 1864 it was remodeled

Mr Bain was appointed Superintendent of Indian Affairs and acted until his death in 1868 and he was a governmental appointee on the Board of Directors of the Grand River Navigation Co for 18 years

As a Major Charles Bain took part in the Rebellion of 1837 His wife often recalled the day when word was brought which caused her husband to gather his farm hands and men from the country about him in hurry to Niagara In 1851, he was made a Lt. Colonel

His son James Bain specialized in pure bred sheep as did his son Arthur Bain Angus of the fourth generation made many improvements in the farm In 1964 he sold the farm to Bruce Wheeler and Hussein Smith Angus built a new house on the southwest corner of the Bain farm where he still resides His family was the fifth generation to reside at Hill House farm

Angus sister Lois married Angus Smith and they live on the former Henry Ince farm

In 1966 Mr and Mrs Bruce Wheeler built a new home on their property The Hill House farm has been renamed Crestvale

THE BAKER FAMILY — GLENHOME

The oldest house at Sims Locks Glenhome built about 1856 is occupied by Bert Baker market gardener and his sister Mrs Guyatt

Their ancestor Frederick Baker U E L settled at Ernestown near Kingston in 1784 He brought the first horse to Upper Canada

His second son, Henry born 1790 settled at Sims Locks in 1822 He was a lumberman so cleared land for his home in the virgin forest on the upper flats His sixth son of twelve children Colin was born there in 1826 Henry had two saw mills at the Locks When the Baker home on the Upper flats burned down Henry built the present Baker home about 1850 where his son Henry Colin was born in 1854 About 1881 Colin Baker moved his mills to York where there was more water power His son Henry Colin returned to the Locks later and started farming He worked the Wm Chapman farm across the road where Andrew Jackson lives until 1908 when he purchased the Stevenson farm in 1911 where Ed Baker a son now lives Ed Baker finally took over the Baker farm which he sold to Donald Gibson in 1946 The farm is now owned by Fred Thompson Another son Henry used to farm the former John Jackson farm now owned by Harrman Bakker

Henry Colin's daughter Jessie married David Dick They lived on the former David Lindsay farm until 1946 when the house was sold to Mr and Mrs Larry Taylor the farm having been sold previously to Emerson Fox

The youngest daughter of Henry Colin Baker's eleven children Florence married Bert Peart and lived on the former Johnny Dalton farm which was sold in 1964 to Charles Fox

1867 — THE BIRD FARM — 1967

Four generations of the Bird family have lived on the farm in Seneca township where Harold Bird lives The first pioneer of the family came from England more than a century ago They built a home over one hundred years ago and it is still in use The four generations are Harold Palmer John Palmer Palmer and Harold, the present owner of the farm.

BOTHWRIGHT FARM

James Bothwright born in England August 1808 first settled in Markham Township when he came to Canada On December 31 1857 he purchased from John Webber 100 acres of land west half of lot 7 west side of plank road in Township of Seneca His wife Margaret and son James then 8 years old came with him This second James and his wife Esther Byers Struthers were next to farm the Bothwright homestead They raised four children — Alfred James Wesley Keogh and Hazel It was James Wesley and his wife Annie Jones who next farmed the homestead They raised four children — Vera Eric James Harold and Shirley Today it is James Harold and his wife Isabella Lang who own the homestead now They also raised four children Carolyn Marion Joyce and James Allan And so it is that the fifth generation James grows up on the Bothwright homestead.

THE BRADT FARM

In 1637 two brothers by the name of Van Bradt arrived in New York State from Holland. A descendant, Aaron Bradt, and son Peter settled in Louth township, after they lost their lands in New York State during the American Revolution.

Thomas Bradt, son of Peter, came to Seneca township from Pelham township in the year 1870. He bought a farm of 410 acres along the Grand River in the tract known as the Young Tract.

He and his three sons cleared the back end of the farm by cutting off the trees for 3000 railroad ties. This 100 acres was then sold to two men by the name of Kelley and Wills and today that 100 acres is in the Wills name and known as the Seneca Wrecking Yard. (The two Wills families are no relation.)

The remaining 310 acres were divided between Thomas Bradt's three sons. 100 acres belonged to Milton, 100 acres to Joseph and land with the house was occupied by Thomas Bradt and his son, Levi.

The Bradt house was built in the year of 1865, by Jacob Young, a large farmhouse of 12 rooms at a total cost of $900.

Levi Bradt owned the farm until his death in 1932 when his son Egin took over. Due to ill health Elgin sold the farm to Albert Hannah in 1959 reserving the house and 3 acres for his son Bruce. This property was sold in May 1966 to a Mr. Ward from Toronto. Egin Bradt was tax collector for Seneca, 1944-61.

The Bradt house is 102 years old. It has been occupied by Jacob Young, Thomas Bradt, Levi Bradt, Egin Bradt, Bruce Bradt, and Mr. Ward.

THE BROWN TRACT

The first Legislature of Upper Canada at Niagara 1792 passed an act to abolish slavery. In the following years many slaves came to Canada. The Indiana Road was the first road from Niagara to the Grand River and in 1837 the Talbot Road was built with the help of Negro labor. Mr. Charles Duncan, a colored man who lived at Niagara helped the "Under Ground Railroad", an organization to help the slaves escape to Canada. He later settled in Seneca on the "Brown Tract" located on the first concession in Seneca on the Indiana Road where quite a few colored people bought farms. They built the North Cayuga Baptist Church on the Talbot Road. A great grandson of Charles Duncan, aged 82, is now living in Cayuga.

THE CLARK FAMILY

Jacob Clark, wife and family, came from Armagh, Ireland, to York in 1840. Of a family of thirteen, seven settled in the area on Crown Lands and became the origin in Canada of many of our present day families.

THE COWIE FAMILY

John Cowie, Sr. of Scotland, who settled on the Onondaga townline in 1833, left his farm to his son George. His son John married Eliza Greene, who lived on the neighbouring farm, and in 1852, they purchased that farm.

John's son, Henry, bought the farm of David Jones, Jr. in 1886.

and the following year he married Elizabeth Jones

On the death of Henry Cowie the farm was farmed by Arthur Cowie and family until their retirement in 1946. Arthur Cowie was a member of the Seneca council from 1935 to 1945.

In 1946 Mayor G. Ray Cowie bought the farm from his father. He has five sons

THE CUMMINGS FARM

John Cummings Sr. his wife and family of three boys and one girl came to Canada from Dundee, Scotland in 1834. They settled across from the Henry Burrows farm on which No. 3 and 5 school house stood. James remained on the home farm. William settled on the farm now occupied by Addison Tapp and Margaret married Robert Patterson and lived where Hugh Patterson now lives.

John Jr. settled on the farm where Harry Cummings lived. In 1857 he bought 50 acres known as the east half of Lot 8 in the Nelles Tract. He also bought Lots 1, 2 and 3 of the Fishcarriper Tract directly from the Indians in 1849. The Tract got its name from an old Indian whose name was Fishcarriper. John, a weaver by trade, later engaged in farming and stock dealing.

On his death Adam Cummings and his wife, the former Isabella Ferguson, then took over the farm. Then his son Harry Cummings and his wife, the former Rose G. Hannah took possession. Several years ago they moved to Hamilton where they keep store and in 1966 they sold the farm to Mr. and Mrs. Harry Millen.

Their son Jack occupies a farm on the Second Line and owns the former Harvey Hannah farm adjoining. Donald another son has a farm on the Second Line also.

Harry Cummings served Seneca as a councillor from 1940 to 1946 and as reeve from 1947 to 1950.

1867 THE DUSE FARM – THE WILLOWS 1967

The present generation when asked to write a family history finds it rather difficult as so little in the way of diaries etc. has been left to furnish facts. The Duse family possesses an old family Bible with the first entry in 1789 of John Duse father of William Duse who was the first owner of the homestead on Lot 7 Concession 1 Seneca Township. The family also has the marriage certificate of William Duse and Mary Jennings married at Niagara Falls in 1824. The family has been traced to U.E.L.'s who entered Canada via the Niagara Frontier settling in Wainfleet Township Lincoln County, Ontario and from Mary and John Duse on August 12 1842. As the family of John grew older and married they sought new lands.

A family possession is a bill of sale in Wainfleet Township dated February 15 1841 when William Duse bought this homestead as a Crown land grant of 120 2/3 acres for one hundred and five pounds currency. Here a family of fourteen were born, nine sons and two daughters growing to adulthood. His youngest son George Duse but call her Jo" was the next owner. In 1883 he married Mary Ann Lash and their family was one son and two daughters. The next owner was Norman Duse and his family was five daughters and one son. Laverne the next owner has two sons and one daughter. Ray is the 5th generation with the Duse name to live here. The house is 108 years old but it when George Duse was one year old. In 1869 the first old barn

were taken down and a new h.p roof barn was built This barn burned in 1858, and in 1959 the present barn was built

1867 — THE DOBBIN FARM — 1967

The Dobbin family still have the official receipt of the first owner Betty Ann MacAdam when she bought the farm from the Indian Land office September 29 1853 and the Crown Deed from the Province of anada December 9 1856 The MacAdam Family consisting of David MacAdam and Betty Ann had before 1845 emigrated from Ireland and settled on the farm where Mrs Ed Stoneman now lives Their sister Sarah Jane MacAdam and husband John W iam Dobbin and baby John W iam who was born at sea in 1845 arrived at the MacAdam home The elder Dobbins died and when Mrs Dobbin remarried and moved to Toronto John Wm Jr stayed and was raised by the MacAdams Betty Ann willed her farm to John Wm Dobbin Jr He sold the farm to his son harles Dobbin who sold it to his brother W iam Mr Wm Dobbin was very interested in farming raising good livestock He was one of the first farmers in the district to sow fertilizer and use chemical weed spray

In 1964, Mr and Mrs Dobbin celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary Their son Jerome Dobbin now owns the farm and his son is named William, too

The Dobbins have a letter from Belfast Ireland dated May 13, 1856. rom Robert MacAdam saying he had bought a Hydraulic Press for press ng linens

Mention should be made of David MacAdam a relative who lived n the corner farm now owned by Mrs Annie Dworzak It was at one ime considered one of the show places of Seneca Township

EAST SENECA

A few of the more important fami es who have lived on first and second line of Seneca east of Highway 56 are Brown Swick Mitchell Kingsboro Spittal Robertson, and Pettigrew For many years these families pioneered and developed that section of Seneca Now the older generation have passed on and the young people are living some place else The Pettigrew families were numerous for many years and owned several farms but these farms have new owners now

Mr Pete Robertson a native of Seneca established a screw nail factory at Milton Mr Douglas Hedley who was raised on the First Line of Seneca and who has been completing his studies at Lansing Michigan is on a year's exchange in Colombia South America He is sponsored by the Rockefeller Foundation for Research in Agriculture

1867 THE EDWARDS FARM — 1967

John Edwards (1775 1853 and his wife Mary and their family of eight children came from Wales year unknown, and settled for a short while in Nova Scotia

Not being satisfied there they moved to Ontario.

In February 1851 they obtained 100 acres of land from the Indians which consisted of Lot 13 and 14 Con 1 Seneca Township Here they settled and lived in a log cabin which had been built by the Indians

John's son, Edward proceeded to build a house and barns on the farm. These buildings are still standing today

When John died the log cabin was torn down and in its place was made the cemetery known as Edwards Burying Ground

Two of John's sons David and Daniel divided the farm between them

In 1867 David sold his 50 acres to his nephew Levi and in 1894 Levi bought his father's half.

Levi's son Clarence is the present owner

For a number of years Clarence threshed wheat and oats with the threshing machine for people in the surrounding area He also trucked hay, straw and livestock to Hamilton and Toronto.

Clarence's wife Verna (Leeming) also comes from a century farm family.

Clarence and Verna have one daughter Norma a nurse on the operating room staff of St Joseph's Hospital Hamilton

1867 — THE ELDER FARM — 1967

Robert King who was among the earliest settlers in the east end of Seneca of U E L descent settled along an Indian trail some years before the land was surveyed his family having emigrated from United States to the British outpost at Beavers Dam about 1 88 Robert fought the Americans in several battles under Capt John Decew

When the war was over he moved up the Chippewa and on to the Hogs Back Landing near Canboro He settled on the Indiana Rd and built a log cabin by the Creek just north of the present house now south half of Lot 4 Seneca Robert's 100 acres cost £81 5s First payment bears the label of Gore Bank 1868 to credit of Receiver General on account of Six Nation Indians

After building part of the present house in 1862 he married Margaret Jane Decew daughter of Edmund Decew first warden of Haldimand County Decewsville was named after his father

They had 7 children — Ed King Alice Art Annie Margaret Sadie and Lizzie Their daughter Alice married John Elder who purchased the farm from her mother in 1888 They had six children — Robert Wesley Margaret Elizabeth Alice and Arthur Arthur married Ethel Peddle and purchased the farm in 1946 later increasing the size of the farm to 300 acres comprising parts of Lot 2 3 4 5 and 6 Art and Ethel have 3 children, Jacqueline and Bill.

THE GRINYER FAMILY

George Grinyer and Mary Parke Grinyer emigrated to Canada from England in 1854 originally the name was spelled Grenier meaning mill or storage space From the Rev Henry Grinyer of the County of Surrey quoted "The Grinyers of England were of Huguenot lineage and fled from France to Southern England."

Wm John Grinyer son of George Grinyer was born in Seneca Township in 1858 He married Eliza Powell of Binbrook in 1882 There was a marriage of 50 years In 1892 they bought the Grinyer farm from Charles Roger Decewsville It is presently owned by Ralph Fleming Wm. J Grinyer served as a councillor, 1896-99

THE HAGAN FARM

Thomas and Jane Hagan left Carrechfergus, County Antrim, Northern Ireland in 1881 and finally arrived at Brantford They knew they had relatives in the Brantford area but did not know exactly where They visited Hagersville market and accidentally met the sought-after relatives who lived in Mount Hope.

For a year, they lived in Caledonia, then rented a farm for three years, and in 1885 bought the farm from Mr Harris, grandfather of Mark Abbey It was on the Nelles Tract north of the railway They had eight children. John took over the farm in 1913, Hugh started farming in 1921 where Emerson Fox lives Bill farmed where Ed Baker now lives Eventually Hugh, Bill Charlie and Tom all settled on farms in Oneida

John married Mary Ann Lawrence and they had four sons The third son, John, took over the farm on his father's death in 1947 and still farms. The Hagan family have occupied this land for 85 years.

Another son, Lawrence, now of Caledonia, who married Jean Forbes, bought the Hawthorne farm, also on the Nelles Tract, south of the railway and sold it in 1965 to Mrs Ed Stoneman and son, Dennis.

HAMMOND-BERRY FARM

In 1847 John Hammond, an Englishman, paid the Crown one hundred and six pounds, five shillings for one hundred acres of Indian land in the Township of Seneca, District of Gore John Hammond had one son, Thomas, and three daughters Dorothy married Matthew Richardson Mary Ann married William Whaley and Jane Elizabeth married William Parke.

In 1871 Thomas Hammond bought the farm from his father He and his wife, the former Caroline Parke had four children, William, who spent most of his life in Calgary Thomas, Mary Elizabeth (Mrs William Berry), and Beulah (Mrs Walter Peacock)

William Berry came to Glanford Township with his parents from Hanover, Ont., when he was one year old. In 1909 he purchased the farm of his father-in-law, Thomas Hammond Mr and Mrs Berry raised six children, Blanche, Harold, Arthur, Beulah (Mrs J Perrin), Louise (Mrs E. Ricker), and George

George bought the family farm from his father in 1947

Henry Harris
1802 - 1870

Maria (Phillips) Harris
1805 - 1895

THE HARRIS FAMILY

Henry Harris, of Welch origin settled in New Brunswick about 1830 at the same time as the Phillips family from Carmarthen shire, Wales, settled there. In 1831, Henry Harris married Maria Phillips in New Brunswick. Six years later they travelled west and settled in Seneca Township.

Henry Harris and his wife had a family of seven — Sarah Ann (Mrs. James Cox), Maria (Mrs. Edward Edwards), another daughter, Theophilus, William, George and Samuel.

As each son married, he was established on an adjoining 100-acre farm.

The name Harris is derived from the French personal name Henri which in England was pronounced Harry and later Henry. They have a coat of arms. The crest is a hedgehog or charged on the side with key.

THE HEWITT FAMILY

On July 15, 1859 an Indian land sale was made to Edward Hewitt, native of Ireland. The farm was south half of Lot 9, Concession 4, Seneca Township. His family included Edward, Jacob, John C., Thomas, James, Robert and Jane.

Jacob remained on the home farm, having two boys. Walter farmed the Hewitt acres until recently when he sold the farm to Mr. Fowler. Jacob's other son, Mark, sold his property in 1966 to Merville Johnston.

Edward had two sons William and Harry. William's daughter Eileen married our present Reeve Morley Johnston and lives on her father's farm. Harry married Eva Johnston and their family consisted of three boys. Leonard, Ross and Oscar, the latter two still residing in Seneca township. Harry served the township as councillor 1923-29, Reeve 1930-32 and Clerk 1933-45.

John's son Seth has two boys, Murray and Gordon, both living in the township. Murray served on the township council 1951-55.

THE HOWLEY FAMILY

Thaddeus Howley, born in County Down, Ireland in 1827, sailed for Canada with his parents in 1832. During the voyage his parents, being stricken with a fatal illness, were buried at sea.

Friends raised the lad until he was twelve when he went to Hamilton Market to seek employment. He worked for Wellington Shaw, a Glanford farmer. In 1848 Thaddeus married Charity Shaw. They located on one hundred acres described on the Indian Land Sale document as East half Lot 6, West side Hamilton and Port Dover Plank Rd., District of Gore. The price was £125 sterling. Their four sons were Gilbert, David, Edward and William.

In 1883, Thaddeus purchased 100 acres, West half of Lot 4 on the Hamilton and Port Dover Road from Charles N. Hull. David married Eliza Jane (Jennie) Thompson 1893. At first they lived in a three roomed log cabin, near which Jennie planted a snowball bush.

The younger son, the late Ross Howley and his wife, Ora Leeming of Glanford, operated this farm known as Howcroft until Ross' death in 1964.

Presently Glen, their only son, is following the family tradition. Glen is a member of the Seneca Council. He and his wife Patricia (Glenny) have three sons and one daughter.

David's older son Harvey passed away in 1966. His wife, the former Nellie Hopkins, resides on Highway 6. David's daughter Vera (Mrs. Keith Weylie) lives in Glanford Township.

THE HUDSPETH FAMILY

After leaving Cumberland County, England in 1844 for Canada, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hudspeth finally in 1851 purchased the south half of Lot 17, Con. 2 in Seneca Township from two Frenchmen. Robert who lived to be 86, was a councillor 1856-58, 1862-63 and reeve of the township in 1859. His older son Joseph spent his entire life on the Seneca farm. To his union to Jane Weylie of Glanford there were three daughters and two sons. Gladys married George Howden and they farmed next to the Hudspeth's farm until Mr. Howden's death in 1952. Mrs. Howden now lives in Caledonia. The oldest son, Weylie, engaged in mixed farming until his death in 1945. He was active in politics and served Seneca Township as a councillor 1913-17, reeve 1918-21, and clerk 1927-32. He was Warden of Haldimand County in 1921 and County Sheriff from 1928 until 1945. In 1906 Weylie married Mabel French and they had two sons, Rae and Reg. The younger son, Reg, has spent his working years as a superintendent at the Domtar gypsum plant in Caledonia. In 1935 he married Jean Clark. In 1936, Rae married Jean Butters and operated the family farm until 1961, at which time he sold the Hudspeth homestead to Mr. Cesare Nardini. Rae and his family now reside in Caledonia.

It is further interesting to note that five generations of the Hudspeth

family have actively participated in the operation of the Caledonia Agricultural Society and in particular the Caledonia Fair. Although the Hedspeth farm in Seneca Township is now sold, it operated in the Hedspeth name continuously for 110 years.

THE HUTTY FAMILY

On April 9 1830 Mr and Mrs Peter Hutty and 12 of their family of 14 children sailed from Liverpool England leaving their former home in Hull, Yorkshire.

The Huttys first settled near Hagersville then moved to Ruthven Park to the farm now rented by Wm Armstrong's sons, descendants of Peter Hutty.

Wm Hutty the oldest son married Isabella Jane Kelly. They moved to various places but finally settled in 1918 on the Shafer farm on No. 6 Highway Seneca. This farm was noted for its cherry orchard. The house of brick was presumably made from clay on the farm. At the present time the farm is leased by Mr and Mrs Ralph Fleming who live across the road on the former Carver farm.

Their family consisted of two boys Peter and William and seven girls. Mary of the children of the oldest girl Ethelwyn Armstrong still live in Seneca Township. Louisa married Harry Thompson and lived on the former Frank Young farm which their son Fred and grandson Carl still farm. Elizabeth lives in a house built on the Hutty farm. Gladys and Mary retired school teachers live in the brick house. Mary carries on an antique business known as "Century House Antiques".

Another son of Peter Hutty John Belt Hutty married Sarah Isobel Crockett whose father at one time lived on the Gordon Patterson farm near Tyneside. Their daughter Helen (Nellie) married W. H. Neles and lived at Walnut Bank Farm.

1867 — HYSLOP FAMILY — 1967

In 1833 Mathew Hyslop with his wife Janet Beattie and their family came from the Ecclefechan (near Langholm) Dumfriesshire Scotland to Scarboro for a short time then to Seneca Township and bought from the Crown Lot 14 — Con. 1, 100 acres. Their family of 6 boys and 5 girls cleared this farm.

For some years Lesne Hyslop and his family owned the adjoining farm which has since been sold and Lesne Hyslop now resides in Caledonia.

Edgar Hyslop also had a farm in the same block and since his death Hugh Hyslop his son has operated it. Edgar Hyslop was councillor 1924-27 and Reeve of Seneca 1928-29.

Norman Hyslop in 1950 sold the homestead to his son Thomas and he and his wife Eleanor and their two sons Robert and Allan now reside on the homestead.

1867 THE INCE FARM - - HIGH LEA HAVEN - 1967

Richard William Ince one of six children was born in Kildare Ireland 1842 the son of Anne and Richard C. Ince. He came to Canada when he was a young lad. As the Captain of the ship became very fond of him, he ate all his meals at the Captain's table.

For some time he lived alone on his farm which he purchased from

James Greeny. It was situated on east half of lot 9, first range east of the plank road. In 1868 he married Rebecca Jane Thompson, daughter of William Thompson, a neighbour. Richard Dick made his living by farming and threshing, using a horse powered threshing machine. This machine required four teams of horses to operate and a man standing in the centre with a whip to keep the horses moving. He was a loyal community worker until his death in 1900.

Their family consisted of four girls and two boys. Three daughters, Annie, Edna and Jane, married Malcolm Biddle, George Avery, both of Caledonia, and Robert Douglas of Hamilton, respectively. Rebecca Anne, the eldest, passed away at age of two.

The older son, Henry J., in 1901 married Lillian Jones. Soon they built a new house on the adjoining farm which Mr. Ince had purchased.

The younger son, Richard William, married first, Carrie Maude Overcough, in 1907 and after her death he married Ida A. Cream. From his first married, he had one son, Thomas Malcolm, who with his wife, the former Marjorie Leeming, still farms the Ince homestead. Their son, Larry Malcolm and his wife, the former Ruby Ann Lawrence, live in a new house on the farm. Larry is the great grandson of Richard William and Rebecca Jane Ince.

The original barns, although changed, still stand. The house which is one of the oldest solid brick houses in Seneca was built from brick made just behind the barn, along the banks of the Black Creek. Drinking water for the house is still obtained by a windlass from the same dug well that was used over one hundred years ago.

THE IRVINE FARM

George and William Irvine went to Halton County from Ireland but did not take up land. George took what is now the Irvine homestead, Lot 4, Concession 3, but was injured while clearing land and died of jock jaw before he received the deed to Lot. 4.

William married Adria Duffy of Trafalgar Township and took up land in Seneca when the Indian Land was opened for settlement. They had 3 boys and 4 girls. George the third boy took over his Uncle George's land and got the deed in 1861. William died at age of 92.

George married a Sensabough girl who died without a family. In 1870 he married Mary Burgess. They had 4 children. Adria, William, Mabel and Elizabeth. When George died in 1904 his son William took over the farm. William married Josephine Hewitt in 1916 and they had a daughter Elsie. Josephine died in 1922 and in 1926 William married Vera Culp. Their son Munroe until recently operated the farm. Elsie married Jim Felker and they now live on the farm.

THE JOHNSTON FAMILY

William Johnston and Hannah Laing Johnston came to Canada as newlyweds from the County of Armagh in Northern Ireland in the 1840's. They resided for a short time with an uncle of William's, Thomas and the Johnston of Seneca. The only other known residence was parts of lots 10 and 11, 1st Concession, east of the Stoney Creek Road in Seneca.

They had four sons and three daughters — Robert, William, Thomas, George, Eliza, Mrs. Thomas Bird, Margaret (Mrs. John Overend) and Annie (Mrs. Robert Lusk). All but George resided in Seneca after marriage.

The son, Thomas, who married Elva Swick and raised three boys

and four girls took over the farm's farm followed by his son George Irvine. George's son Kenneth resides on the family farm with his wife two sons and a daughter.

Another son of Thomas Irvine married Laura Nelles and their son Keith married Reta Davis whose family were living on the Robert Johnston farm. Keith and Reta live on No. 56 Highway near Hutchinson's.

William's son Robert who was both a teacher and a farmer lived on the second line. His wife was the former Margaret Burgess and they had seven children. Their son Wm. Arthur married Sarah Lounsbury and their children were: Mervin (present reeve of Seneca), Pearl, Aletha and Pearl. Mervin married Doreen Hewitt and they have a family of six boys. Mervin's son who married Doreen Shannon, Glenn and Carl all reside in Seneca Township.

William's daughter Irene who married Thomas Byrd had three boys and one girl. One son Thomas Byrd married and lived on Highway 56. Another son Frank Byrd was reeve of Seneca in 1945-46 and was Seneca Warden of Haldimand Co. in 1966. He had a family of three girls and one boy. Lenore married Howard Harrison and resides in Seneca Township.

THE KELLY FARMS

John Becker born in 1787 and his wife Catharine Cronkleyman born in 1796 settled on the Becker homestead on Indiana Road, Seneca Township on Lot 1 Con. 1 east of the Stoney Creek Road. Their son Abraham born 1815 married Margaret Smith. On Abraham's death the land was left to his son Allen Becker. At Allen's death in 1901 the land was left to his sister Catharine who had married Nathan Kelly. Their son Arthur Kelly married Maud Overend. They had four sons and three daughters. On his death in 1954 Arthur left the farm to his son Victor. Arthur's daughter Irene married Gordon Harrison and they live in a new house on the third line. Irene's son Howard married Lenore Byrd and they live on the first line west of No. 56 Highway. Kenneth Harrison and his family live on the Fishcarrier Tract.

Nathan Kelly's father Dennis owned two farms in 1875. He gave the farm on Indiana Road half Lot 5 East Stoney Creek Road to his son Nathan. In 1906 the land was left to Nathan's grandson Victor who still resides there. Nathan Kelly served on the Seneca Council for 20 years and was reeve in 1904.

1867 — THE KERR FARM — 1967

In 1847 James Kerr and his wife Harriet two sons and Mrs. Wm. Nairn his wife's mother came from Ponsharden Ireland on the ship Pennsylvania. They settled on Lot 8 Con. 4 where 3 more children were born. He served Seneca township as tax collector from 1865-1868.

The two older boys Adam and Andrew who served with the York Rifles during the Fenian scare at Sarnia and Ridgeway in 1866-68 settled in Sarnia.

James the youngest boy who inherited the farm was very active in [illegible]. He served long and faithfully as a pathmaster. He married Lydia Moore and their family were Florence Mrs. J. MacMillan, James and Robert S. Kerr who inherited the family farm was councillor of Seneca 1917-32 reeve 1933-35 and Warden of Haldimand 1935. His wife was the former Nellie Spencer. Their son James who married Mary Evans lives at Sims Locks and the youngest son Frank who married

Marie Moffatt, remains on the home farm Their family are William Carol, Robert and Nancy

In one hundred and twenty years there has never been less than three generations who have lived on the farm at one time

Seneca Township is very grateful to Mr Robin Kerr for providing the inspiration, and for his time and effort spent in preparing this book

THE KINGSTON-HARRISON FARM

In 1836 the time of William the Fourth, The New England Company was granted 360 acres of land in Upper Canada in the County of Wentworth in the district of Gore and the County of Haldimand in the district of Niagara (for mission schools)

In 1857 the Reverend Abraham Nelles (grandson of Major Henry Nelles) County of Brant Lay Agent for the New England Company leased to John Spencer Kingston school teacher from Ireland a parcel of land, 140 acres, situated north of the Grand River in the Township of Seneca County of Haldimand from a block or lot of land commonly known as the Onondaga School Lot or the School House Block, property of the New England Company

John Spencer Kingston was the school master at the "Institution established for the Instruction of the Indian Children Mohawk Village near Brantford, so in 1863 he subleased for several years part of this land to Robert Wren farmer The dwellings were south of the Grand Trunk Railroad, on Lot 34.

In February 1875, John Kingston received a Crown Deed for Lot 34, consisting of 79 acres

A frame house was built for John Kingston in appreciation for his years of excellent instruction of the Indian children The Kingstons moved to the farm with their young son and daughter Mrs Kingston before her marriage was Emily Washbrook of Walpole Their son Richard Robert Spencer who had been born at the Mohawk Village inherited the farm in 1897. Richard Kingston married Edith Royston from a neighbouring farm.

In 1915 the present brick home was built on the site of the frame house by James McAlpine and sons builders grandfather and uncles of the present owner, James McAlpine Harrison who purchased the farm in April 1946.

Richard Kingston also resided at the farm until his death in 1954 at the age of ninety-one.

1867 — THE LATTIMER FARM — 1967

Andrew Lattimer emigrated from the County of Armagh Ireland and settled on a claim which when surveyed was the north half of Lot 7, Concession 2, Seneca Township and received the crown deed in 1855

To Andrew Lattimer and his wife Margaret were born five sons and three daughters

They were Sarah born 1836 died 1892 Elizabeth 1838 Robert 1840-1922, Thomas 1845-1916, Creighton 1849-1914 Mary Jane (Spittal) 1853-1913, John C 1854-1856 and John Stewart 1859-1934

The youngest son John Stewart was born in the house that still is in use on the farm today He inherited the homestead at his father's death in 1897 His mother died in 1892

John Stewart married Agnes Wilson, June 6, 1894 To this union

four children were born — Mrs Cecil Cargill (Mina) Raymond deceased 1940, Winnifred 1902-1904 and Elgin on the homestead. In September 1914 John's wife Agnes died and in 1917 he married Margaret Sutton.

The Lattimer Homestead in 1967 is occupied by Elgin, his wife the former Jean Anderson and their daughter Joanne. Their daughter Donna Fay married to Rev. Allan Parker lives in Sudbury, Ontario.

The barns have been rebuilt. The front part of the frame house remains as it was built except for some slight changes.

The farm has been continuously in the Lattimer name since the claim was taken, but the future of it surviving another generation is remote.

THE LINDSAY FAMILY

The Lindsay family is of Irish descent, tracing back to David Lindsay of Crawford and Balcarres. They emigrated and settled in Ontario near the village of Hornby in Halton County.

A son, David Lindsay, moved to Seneca Township to the farm of Lots 26 and 27, River Range, where Mrs. Cowan lives, along what is now No. 54 Highway. About 1850 he married Almira Shaw from Cranford Township. Born of this marriage were seven children — Ada, Emma, James, Thomas who died as a young boy, David, Anson and Samuel.

David Lindsay stayed on the home farm after the death of his father and married Susan Turner. They had one son, Lyall. When Lyall became older the farm was divided and another house built where Lyall and his wife, Violet Hall from Caledonia, lived. They sold their farm several years later to David Dick and went to Brantford. The father stayed as long as he was able to farm and then his farm was sold too.

Ada married Thomas Beattie and they farmed in Seneca, east from No. 6 Highway on the County Road. Later they moved to Caledonia where he drove the mail on rural route number one. With horse, the mail route was a full-time job.

Emma married Wm. Ramsey. They both died young, leaving no children.

James purchased the farm, Lot 6, on the first road west of No. 6 Highway in Seneca where he kept batch until marrying Jessie Whicher from Seneca. They later purchased the property joining theirs on the north as well and moved to the home along No. 6 Highway where their son, Eric was born.

James Lindsay was succeeded by his son Eric who married Lois Bain from South Cayuga. Eric later sold this property and moved north along No. 6 Highway several miles to the former John Parker farm. Eric is the present clerk of Seneca, having served as area school trustee and councillor 1955-63.

His son, James Lindsay, is the only one of the next generation of this family making his home in Seneca Township.

1867 - THE JAMES LONG FARM — 1967

The 100 acre farm on Route 56, Township of Seneca, owned by James J. Long, is part of a large tract of land acquired by James Long, grandfather, and Thomas Long, by a Crown Grant in approximately 1850. These men emigrated from County Cork, Ireland.

The first house in this general area was a log cabin. James Long married Ellen McGinnis of County Kerry and in the early 1860's this house

was built. Seven children were born to James and Ellen — three being born in this house.

The last of the seven children, John Long, passed away approximately in the 1940's. He had lived there with his sister, Ellen and brother, James for over 70 years.

The present owner purchased this property from Leo Long, his brother, who had previously acquired it from the estate of John Long.

This farm has had but four owners in the Long family, covering a period of over 140 years.

1867 — THE JOSEPH LONG FARM — 1967

Great grandfather James Long and his brothers, Tom and Patrick, came from the County of Kerry, in Ireland, during the year 1837. It is believed they came with several hundred other immigrants during the time of the potato famine in Ireland. They came on a sail boat, and the voyage lasted approximately 8 weeks. James and his brother, Tom, homesteaded the 100 acres now owned by Joseph Long. They first built a log cabin at the roadside. In later years, James married Ellen Collins, who also emigrated from the Province of Munster in Ireland. They had 4 boys and 3 girls.

Tom married Mary O'Connor, also from Ireland, and they had 1 son and 1 daughter. Tom's son, John, homesteaded in Northern Ontario.

The farm was split in half when the brothers married. Tom remained on the east half, and James occupied the west half.

Patrick, who never married, set up a blacksmith's shop at the foot of Main St., in Buffalo.

The barn on this property still contains part of the original structure which is over 100 years old, but in recent years it has been remodelled.

1867 — THE LUSK FARM — 1967

John Lusk came from Londonderry Co., Ireland, with his wife who was Elizabeth Johnston. They lived first in Trafalgar Township, but later bought five 100-acre farms in Seneca. They had a family of six.

Some time around 1845, their son, Samuel Lusk married Rosa Cook. Cook Station was named after this Cook Family.

After their marriage they came to reside on the Lusk Farm. The log house and barn were back near a creek for water facilities. There were eight children born, namely - Susan, Maryanne, Phoebe, Frances, Elizabeth, Maud, John and Charles. There is one surviving now, Mrs. Maud Bennett of Detroit, who is 85.

The log barn was rebuilt near the road by Charles, in 1900. Later the house came into being.

Charles went to work on the Michigan Central Railroad at Canfield where he met Alice Krull, whom he later married. Two sons were born in Canfield. In 1914, he came back to the farm and drew cream to Cayuga for some time. Three more children were born. Everett and Vernon are on the home farm, Clifford is on the First Line, Mrs. Herbert Allen lives in Smithville, and Mrs. Bill Brooks is in Dunnville.

THE MARSHALL FAMILY

The Marshall ancestors came originally from Stirlingshire, Scotland, from the town of Falkirk, north of the River Clyde and Glasgow. It wasn't until 1890 the Marshalls finally bought their property in Seneca,

having settled in Onondaga and Cayuga Townships. In 1804 Mrs. Adam Marshall and son John moved to the Seneca farm. Of her six daughters Mary married James Moore and Annie married J. W. Richardson both of Seneca. John married Grace Russell and their son Adam married Marjorie Creighton of Onondaga. This brought his bride back close to the property where her ancestor Robert Creighton was living prior to 1800 before going to Onondaga to live. Their daughter Mary is Dairy Princess for Haldimand County this centennial year a position which she held in 1964.

RICHARD MARTIN — DERRYCLARE

Richard Martin of County of Galway Ireland was the largest landowner in England or Ireland and was a member of the Irish Parliament. He earned the name "Humanity Martin" as he assisted having the Bill of Rights for Dumb Animals put through Parliament.

His second son Richard born at the ancestral home "Ballynahinch" settled at York in 1831. He bought his property from John Weir where Lee Avenue now runs. He resided in a large house with pillars overlooking the river and the house was replaced some time prior to 1850.

He took part in the Rebellion of 1837 near Chippawa and on his return to York raised a volunteer company in Haldimand. Later he was appointed Colonel in the Haldimand Militia. He was a member of the Municipal Council of the district for many years and he and Greig Nairn and Forrest the Lower Bank. He was appointed Sheriff of Haldimand County in 1846 and remained in office his death in 1858. He had five sons who were prominent citizens. Frederick Fraser Martin remained on the home farm and his son Roland sold the farm to Mr. Fraser Young in 1917. Robert's son Robert a railway engineer and family lived in York for some time but now reside in Caledonia.

THE McALPINE FARM

This farm has an interesting story. It is part of Onondaga School Reserve Land. On February 13, 1838 this parcel of land consisting of 91 acres situated in the Township of Seneca County of Haldimand and south of land belonging to the Buffalo and Lake Huron Railway Company was deeded by the Crown to the New England Company.

It is believed a school was built on that property after 1838 for the purpose of educating the Onondagas as in 1842 there were seven day schools on the reserve.

In 1846 this land was sold to William Hunter. In 1884 the Hunter sisters had it. In 1908 James McAlpine then 1918 George McAlpine and [illegible] 1944 Edgar McAlpine owned the farm. Edgar has owned and driven a school bus in Seneca since 1[illegible]. In 1968 he sold his two school buses but continues to drive a bus.

The late Mr. Ferguson has reported that the road at one time went between the McAlpine house and barn that there was a hotel northwest of the house that the hotel was burned by the Indians accidentally that there was an Indian burying ground in the orchard and that the top storey of the present McAlpine house was at one time a school.

THE McCLUNG FAMILY

David and Samuel McClung along with three other McClungs who settled near Lowville came to Canada from County Armagh about 1825 or a bit [illegible]. John and William Pettigrew came about the same time. Samuel McClung took up a farm on the 2nd line in Seneca on Lot 15. David

Mc[illegible]ung and the two Pettigrews worked in the brick yard at Seneca Place. They stayed with Thomas and Jane Johnston who had come from Ireland in 1832 and settled on the east half of Lot 5, 1st Concession, east Plank Road. Later John Pettigrew married Sarah Jane Johnston in 1860 and David McClung married Margaret Johnston in 1862. The Johnston farm, later the Suter farm, is now the property of Frank Somerville, district editor for the Hamilton Spectator.

David McClung and his bride lived with his brother Samuel. They used to walk five miles to Margaret's home, carrying their baby, on Saturday afternoon and back on Sunday afternoon. About 1848 David took up land in North Cayuga Township. Their son Samuel was born in 1845 in Seneca and raised in North Cayuga but when he married Mary Jane Brown they soon moved in 1872 to Lot 9, Con. 1, in East Seneca where Earl Overend now lives. Six sons were born to them. In 1895 he moved to No. 6 Highway where Keith McClung now lives. Of the six sons David, Ben, George and Thomas are all deceased. Lewis lives in Caledonia, Norman in Brantford and Milton and his sons Sam and Gordon live on the McClung Road.

THE McKIBBON FARM

At the age of 21 Hamilton McKibbon arrived in Canada in 1831 from Comber Parish, County Down, Ireland. In the middle 1830's he settled on Lot 2, in the Range west of the Gore, Seneca. In 1841 he married Hannah Smith of Grantham. Their youngest son, Robert Lewis Hamilton, remained on the farm. He married Annie Hagel of Dunnville. They had a family of five daughters and one son, Louis. Louis and his sister Ethel remained on the farm until 1953 when it was sold to Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Gilbert.

In 1857 the brick house was built and in 1974 it was stuccoed.

It was on his farm in 1935 that the tent city for the International Ploughing Match was erected. The ploughing contests were held on neighbouring farms. An outstanding feature was the judging of the teams of ploughs horses. Many Seneca citizens have travelled with Louis in his "Roamer" to far away places sightseeing.

Louis' sister Eva had a daughter Patricia, who married Murray Hewitt and lives near Empire.

THE MOORE FAMILY PLANK ROAD

William and Samuel Moore, brothers from Burnfoot, Londonderry County, Northern Ireland, purchased land north of Caledonia on the east side of the Plank Road in the early 1860's. They had been influenced to come to this district by an older brother, Capt. John Moore, who had retired in Oakville. His fine old residence there today bears the plaque (1838, John Moore, Mariner).

William Moore lived with his mother and sister in the house he built, now owned by Robert Thompson. Mr. Moore was one of the founders of the Argyle Street Presbyterian Church.

Samuel Moore married Helen McNiven, daughter of another Seneca pioneer, James McNiven. Of their family of five, two sons continued to farm in Seneca.

Samuel Alexander, the youngest son, remained on "Burnfoot Farm" until his death in 1950. It was then sold to the late W. R. Thompson. (Mrs. L. M. Spratt of Caledonia and Grace, Mrs. H. Mallard of Toronto) are daughters of Samuel Moore.

James M. Moore, the older son, who married Mary Marshall of

Onondaga purchased the two farms south of the home place. Presently residing there are their descendants, Mr. Gordon Moore, Miss Isabel Moore and Miss Kathleen Moore.

THE MOORE FARM — THIRD LINE

Robert Moore, Sr., took possession of the farm on Con. 4, Seneca, prior to the year 1861. His son Thomas Moore, took it over about the year 1896. He sold it later to his brother, Robert Moore, Jr. who took it over in 1918 for his son, Leslie. Leslie's children were the fourth generation of Moores to live on the farm. About six years ago the farm became the property of George Weatherston.

THE MURDOCK FAMILY

In 1851 Wills Murdock married Mary Anne Dawson in Lisburn Cathedral, County Down, Northern Ireland. Three years later they sailed from Liverpool to New York.

Shortly after they arrived in Canada they lived in a house opposite George Shipway's home, now occupied by Geo. Robinson, Mr. Shipway's grandson.

Wills Murdock who was related to John Lester and Wm. Richard Mussen, worked for John Lester for one dollar a day. From time to time Wills purchased lots. They had a family of four girls and four boys. Richard William (Will) married Minnie Weir and they bought a Weir farm near York where Oscar Bochsler now lives. Their sons were Reg, Joe and Harold. Reg lived on the farm until his death. Harold lives in Dundas. Wills' youngest son, Wilfred Edwin (Fred) remained on the family farm until his death in January 1960. He married Frances McEvoy who taught school in Indiana and Sims Locks. Their daughter, Mary still resides there.

The Murdock house, built by Richard Mussen, merchant, is well over one hundred years old. It is believed that the reason for the high cement foundation is that it was a warehouse and merchandise was brought off the boats in the canal behind the house.

1867 THE NELLES FARM, NELLES TRACT
WALNUT BANK FARM — 1967

The Red House, 1796

Walnut Bank Farm was originally known as Red House Farm. It is believed that the house was built in 1796 by William Nelles. It was the

meeting place between the Indians and the white settlers. There was one large room downstairs with a fireplace at each end and one large room upstairs. It was a red frame clapboard building with a hip roof.

When Frederick A. Nelles, grandson of Warner Nelles who was a son of Major Henry Nelles, purchased the farm from Peter Ba... Nelles in [illegible] he remodelled the house. Fred Nelles served the community in many capacities. He married Mary Nichol Thorburn and they had one daughter Jessie and four sons Mungo, Walter, Frederick and W. Harmon. The youngest son, Harm, married Helen Nelles Hetty and took over the Nelles property. Their family consisted of a son John H. and a daughter Edith Mrs. Arthur Burrows of St. Catharines. John H. married Mary McClung of North Cayuga who taught school at Simcoe. Their children Margaret and William are the seventh generation of Nelles to live on the Nelles Tract in Seneca Township.

The Nelles name of French derivation was once believed to be De Nele. From France the Nelles ancestors moved to the Palatine in Germany and then to the Mohawk Valley in New York State. In 1785 Captain later Major Henry Nelles began settlement on the Nelles Tract Grand River.

JOHN NORTON — HILL HOUSE FARM

John Norton a Scotchman came to America and settled among the Six Nations Indians. He became a friend of Joseph Brant and was adopted into the Mohawk Nation. He learned the Indian language and thus was able to do much translating.

John Norton worked for the improvement of the Six Nations in Upper Canada in agriculture and learning. In 1804 he visited England to plead their cause and made a good impression there. He met much opposition as William Claus of the Indian Department distrusted him and there was great rivalry between them. Also many of the white men were greedy and took advantage of the Indians and introduced them to strong drink which has been the downfall of many.

In the War of 1812-14, Captain Norton and his Indian troops distinguished themselves at Queenston Heights, Stoney Creek, Grimsby and Fort Erie.

After the war Colonel Norton bought the estate where the Bain family later settled. He married an Indian maiden Katie Mans whom he had sent to Dumfermline Scotland where she had received the best of schooling.

On his property he built a home known as Hill House which burned in 1865. He also built a log house for his hired help. This house is still standing. He and his wife visited England where they were received at court. Norton improved his lands along the Grand River hoping that his Indian friends would follow his example.

Mrs. Norton's cousin Joe Crawford became a frequent visitor. When Norton questioned him concerning his visits the Indian who was just on quarrelsome proposed a duel. John Norton wished to settle the matter quietly, but the Indian insisted.

During the duel which took place in July 1823, both fired and Norton's shot pierced his opponent's lungs.

After the Indian's death which occurred several days later Colonel Norton left his farm in charge of Robert Thompson and went to Niagara the nearest court of justice where he gave himself up. He was tried and acquitted as the judges knew him well. He left and was never heard of again.

THE PARKE FAMILY

Edmund and Matilda Parke farmers in the Parish of Reepham County Norfolk England emigrated to Canada with their five children Mary Mrs George Grover Peter Mrs Wm Hay Edmund and William twins and Charles It is presumed the original Parke homestead was at the corner of Early Church Road and Mine Road In 1808 the Crown sold the land to William Parke.

William Parke married Elizabeth Lily whose family were John William Walter and George founders of Park & Parke wholesale and retail drug store Hamilton Watson Catherine (Mrs Tom Hammond) Louise and Lily killed by a stagecoach on Welcome School Hill at age of six)

In 1888 Watson Parke bought the Parke Homestead which he sold to his brother Leonard in 1907 Leonard married Martha Parker and their four children were Margaret Mildred and William and Arthur (twins) Leonard's second wife was Ethel Sheppard Maltese.

In 1877 William Parke bought his grandmother Lily's farm Lots 161 and Plank Rd and in 1881 married Jane Hammond Their children were Leonard above Mabel Sidney and Lessie Lessie who bought his father's farm in 1920 married Nellie Young Their son Percy is a druggist in Hamilton Warren Bates mailman for R R 1 Caledonia lives there now.

Sidney Parke in 1914 bought from Wm Smith Lot 6 Con 1 This was formerly his grandfather Hammond's farm He married Cora Smith and had three children Stanley druggist in Caledonia Lorne and Charlotte Lorne married to Helen Rush purchased the home farm from Mrs Sidney Parke in 1950 Their children are Joyce James and Allan

Charlotte married Robert Hoover and lives on property purchased from her mother They have four boys Donald Glenn Larry and Gordon (twins).

THE PATTERSON FAMILY - McLUNG ROAD

The Patterson brothers Robert and David of Scotland settled in Seneca about 1846 They bought the first farm east of Caledonia which was Indian land

David's farm on the river is now owned by Mr and Mrs Ralph Fleming David married Janet Smith of Oneida and they had two boys and two girls They built the brick house which still stands on the hill

Robert Patterson born in 1812 in Scotland was a sea captain He bought the land directly behind his brother's farm north of the railroad He married Margaret Cummings of Seneca in 1843 They built the house which has been moved and altered several times It is over 100 years old. They had nine boys and two girls

James the oldest son rented 100 acres across the road from his father He later bought this farm in 1882 He married Isobella Robertson of Caledonia They had two sons Andrew and Norman Norman who now owns the farm married Myrtle Parker of Oakland in 1918 and in 1920 they built the new brick house They have three children Jean Hugh and Murray Hugh an engineer married Barbara Robinson and lives where his great grandfather Robert settled His nine children are the fifth generation of Patterson to live in the same house

THE PATTERSON FARM SINCLAIRVILLE

Over 100 years ago Joseph Patterson arrived from the Genessee valley N Y and settled on south half Lot 5 Concession 3 Seneca Joseph of the next generation had 4 girls and 3 boys Of the three boys Jim married Clara Wilcox Joe married Jean Spittal and had some family and Llewlyn Sr married Ida Lusk and had Llewlyn and Maggie Llewlyn is unmarried living on the farm which has been in the Patterson name over 100 years

THE PETCH FARM

Lot 6, Seneca was deeded to Robert Petch from the Crown in 1856 for the sum of £100 15s. 3d This farm has been occupied by direct descendants of his ever since — Robert Petch, William Petch Isaac Petch, Mrs. Philip Adams (Alice Petch), and James Adams

THE OVEREND FAMILY

There were three Overend brothers William Jim and Robert They came from Armagh, Ireland about 1850 William had four sons — John, Wes Jim and Albert John remained in East Seneca locality and married Maggie Johnston daughter of Robert Johnston Sr To them were born four boys and three girls — Fred Wes George Norman Maud Laura and Clara Fred lived on one of the original Overend farms and fixed it up well His son Harry married Marjorie Dyer Maud married Arthur Kelly George married Ola Glasby and took over his father's place One son, Earl lives on the Glasby farm and another Glenn lives on his father's farm Clara married Mark Hewitt and passed away in 1966

THE THOMPSON FAMILY

William Thompson born 1803 at Carrickfergus County Antrim Northern Ireland married Rebecca Berry and settled on what is now known as the McClung Road in Seneca Township about 1830 The Berry family followed and settled on the 50 acres adjoining to the east

Nine Thompson children were born Son John moved to Norfolk County son William married Barbara Young and farmed in Seneca before moving to Beamsville Jane married Solomon Knope who operated a blacksmith shop in Seneca Village daughter Rebecca became Mrs Richard Ince Elizabeth married William McMorran of Oneida Township Mary became Mrs Joseph Quinsey and a mother of eight, and Annie married Charles Young.

The youngest son Henry born in 1857 married Eliza Follett and took over the homestead on his father's death in 1890 Rheumatism compelled him to give up farming in 1901 when he moved to Caledonia to take up hotelkeeping at the Campbell House, then within Seneca Township at the railway crossing

Meanwhile son Robert John born in 1851 had bought the farm across the road to the west and in 1880 married Margaret Hooden daughter of pioneer descendants William Hooden and Agnes Bain Thompsons who carry on the name in Seneca Township today are descended from their family of nine The eldest son William Reginald farmed on No 6 Highway succeeded by his son Robert John (R J) until the latter's death two years ago, Robert (Bert) and the youngest son John maintained law and order in Hamilton as police officers George farmed on No 6 Highway and operated a custom threshing business, in which his brother

married Gordon Stoneman of Seneca

ates the Weir farm across the county line in Onondaga

Antique Preservers Association of Canada

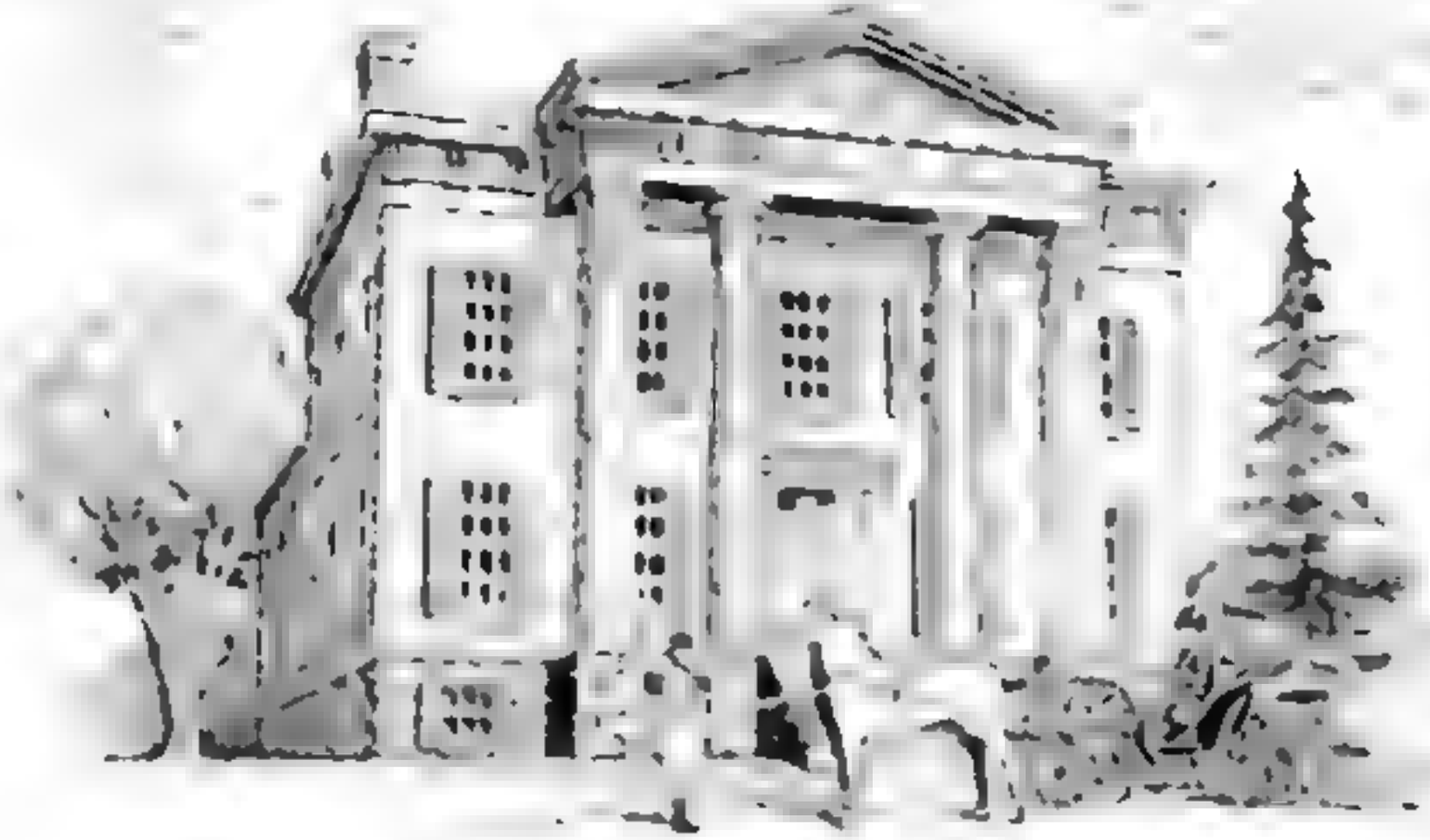
THE THOMPSON FAMILY — BUTLER'S CASTLE

resenting the Royal Family, in this country

Niagara District of Upper Canada, was born in 1793

ox barns

overlooking the river.



St. TRAPPANCASTLE — Ancestral Home of the Thompson family

ferried across Lake Erie and up the Grand River on flat bottomed boats.

Inside the castle a beautifully proportioned staircase with mahogany hand carved balusters and handrails winds upward for two and three quarters turns to a skylight at the top. The fireplaces are of black marble and white marble from Italy. The library or drawing room has two curving stairways at the sides of their architectural design. Many of the original pieces of furniture which were bought for the castle by the late Isaac Thompson are still there. The high narrow windows are shuttered both on the outside and on the inside. The ceilings in all the rooms downstairs are about 15 feet high.

Other buildings such as the carriage house, servants' quarters, a harness shop and a servants' kitchens were built at the same time as the castle.

The carriage from the Thompson estate has been used to convey the Prince of Wales, who later became King Edward VII.

At the time of his death in 1857, David Thompson's estate was probated at $400,000, a vast fortune in those days.

The Thompson private cemetery on the bank of the river is set in a small enclosure of wrought iron fence, surrounded by beautiful old trees.

David's youngest son, David, was born in 1856. At 26 years of age in 1882 he became a member of parliament for Haldimand for the party known as the Reformers, now Liberals. He was a member until his death in 1886.

Andrew Thompson, son of the latter David, was born in 1879. His first wife, who died in 1926, gave birth to three children, Andrew, Drew, Walter and Margaret. He served as a member of parliament a term. He went overseas with his two sons, Drew and Walter, to serve in the First Great War as a colonel. It is said of Andrew Thompson that he was a product of Old Ontario, that he knew and loved its traditions and that he had a long line of pioneer ancestry. He was wise, warm and tolerant with the understanding that comes of seeing life as it was. While he lived at Ruthven, Lord and Lady Bessborough, Governor General of Canada, were visitors. The colonel died in 1939.

Major Drew Thompson, son of Colonel and Mrs. Thompson, was born in 1884. He married Lydia M. Milne. They spent six months at Ruthven before building a large frame dwelling to the north of Ruthven. They had no children. He died in 1961.

Lieutenant Walter J. Thompson, his brother, served during the Great War with the 36th Battalion and was severely wounded. He was a barrister and artist and painted many of the portraits which hang in Ruthven Castle. His two sons are Walter and Drew.

RUTHVEN TENANTS

Many years ago Bob and Dick Leatch lived where Walter Armstrong lives and worked some of the property. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Leatch lived in the castle, as caretakers.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Armstrong, the former Dorothy Drew of the Woodlawn, now live where Walter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Armstrong, the former Ruthven Hall, raised their family of eleven children. Walter Armstrong married Genevieve Messmore and lived on the home farm until 1964. They married Ross Nesbitt and then live on former West property. Jean Armstrong has a hair dressing business on a lot on their property. She married Fred Robinson and lives on the Stoney Lane farm, formerly the Hugh Moore farm. Neale and her husband, Earl Price, live

on No 6 Highway on a lot on the Hatty farm Howard Armstrong and family live on the Gibson farm.

Douglas Murray and his wife Norma deceased lived in the castle as caretakers, for a few years.

THE RICHARDSON FAMILY

William Richardson and his wife the former Sarah Gray both natives of Yorkshire England settled on the farm in Seneca now occupied by Everett Thompson They had eleven children — Sarah (Mrs T Mawes) Mary Mrs R Fife John died in infancy Matthew (married Dorothy Maria Hamm ond Elizabeth (Mrs John Kelly for a time resided on the farm now owned by Donald Atkinson) Maria (Mrs David Jones who for a time lived on the farm now occupied by her great grandson Kay Lowie, Matilda (Mrs G Kelly William (married Lynda Ayres and settled on the home farm Alice Mrs Thos Hyslop of Seneca) and Jemima (Mrs. James Urie of Seneca) ,and Kezia

Wm Richardson died in 1866 at the age of 61 years and his widow in 1887 Their son William took over the farm which was noted for its fine apple orchard and extensive apiary

Matthew Richardson settled on Lot 41 River Range There in later years he with his son John W , established the Riverside herd of Holstein Friesian cattle Riverside Farm won a prize for the best dairy farm in Ontario in 1912. Bill Weatherston farms there now

John W Richardson married Annie M Marshall and they had two daughters Grace Mrs Wm S Gibson Hagersville and Dorothy (Mrs Norman Schell Woodstock Mr Richardson's second wife was Mary Mabel Parker of Seneca

The following are grandchildren of pioneer William and Sarah Richardson — Mrs Alice Burtwright Jessie and Norman Hyslop Garnet Urie and Matthew Richardson John and Donald Gibson are grandsons of John W Richardson

THE ROLSTON FAMILY

The Rolston family believed to come from Armagh Ireland settled first in Trafalgar Township and later in Seneca Three daughters who were trained nurses married doctors and two sons were doctors

William married Catharine Ord in 1862 and settled where Denis Whitaker now lives Of their five daughters one Edith married Richard Kingston.

THE SMUCK FARM

In 1851 a Crown patent for Lot 3 West Half South West Quarter Plank Road, was granted to John Norton

In 1912 this property was deeded to his grandson J Hedley Smuck In 1966 J Hedley Smuck passed away and the property is now owned by his son, Harvey Smuck, making this a century farm

Harvey Smuck continues to carry on the Milk Transport Business established by his father in the early days.

A sister, Doris (Mrs. Wm Spera , resides in Stoney Creek

THE STONEMAN FAMILY

The farm on which Mac Stoneman and his family now reside on County Road 8 was bought in 1867 by his grandfather Joseph Stoneman. At that time the land had not been [illegible] and the first year Joseph Stoneman built a barn and then the following year built the house and moved his family there. He had 5 sons Peter, Edward, Francis, John and Jonathan, all of whom are now deceased. Edward, John and Jonathan bought a 50 acre farm on which they settled. Edward remained on the home farm and Peter made his home with Edward and Mrs. Stoneman until they retired to Creemore in 1918. Francis and Mac built over the farm where he now lives with his wife and four children. Two of John's sons, Jack and Pat, and their families live on neighbouring farms as does also the wife and family of the late Edward Stoneman. Fred Stoneman was tax collector 1908-09, 1914-24 and councillor 1922-25, 1933-35.

1867 THE TURNBULL FAMILY — 1967

Andrew Turnbull was born in [illegible] Ireland in 1817. With his wife and three children they came to Canada in 1846. First they settled at James's Lake. In a couple of years they moved to Nottawa township on Lot 5 on the 2nd Line. They had a log shanty to live in and cleared the land. Later they built a good home near the road but still made hay. By this time the farm had increased to 100 acres. The first family members of the family were [illegible] Ann, Agnes, Nellie and Andrew. John stayed home and helped his father on the farm but the rest of the family settled quite a distance away.

In 1888 on Christmas Day John married Margaret Muir and they lived with his parents. A few years later they bought the farm across the road and moved there as the house was closer to the road. Much repair to the barn was required. They had three sons John A., Alexander and Archie. Alex was a doctor with a practice in Westminster Hospital at London. John A. remained on the farm and has one daughter Bella and one son Hubert who farms the two Turnbull farms. He has 3 sons and one daughter both of whom, Ken and Nancy, John Turnbull Sr. was a councillor in 1913 and reeve in 1915 and John A. was a councillor 1947-48.

1867 — THE URIE FARM — 1967

Hugh Urie came from Ayrshire, Scotland in 1851 to Nottawa Township and bought 50 acres being the north part of Lot 8 on the first concession west of the Nottawa creek road. His purchase of 50 acres was the beginning of the Urie farm. He married Margaret Craig from Scotland and had 2 children. James and Agnes. Mrs. Urie died. Hugh married Mrs. Ann Wilson (nee Ann Bell) who had a son James. Hugh married Nancy Jones. Later he went west to the prairie. Many did but he was back. James remained and farmed his father's farm and bought other farms. In 1881 he married Jemima Kerr, Nottawa, whose father owned the Everett hotel and farm. They had three children. William, Agnes, Jane, Margaret and Hugh Cornell. James Urie passed away in September 1911 while he was Warden of Nottawa Township. He had been councillor for 22 years and reeve for 10.

Mildred Urie worked the farm with her father on May 1911 when he was retiring the township as treasurer. Joseph Cotton then took over the farm. In April 1918 he married Mary Anne Mowat of Nottawa Township. They have one son James William who is the fourth generation on the farm.

THE WEYLIE FAMILY

Isaac Weylie son of John and Rebecca Stein Weylie of Irish descent was born in Glanford Township Wentworth Co in 1855

Around 1880, he purchased a farm in Seneca Township from Matthew Gray Lot 3, First Range west of the Plank Road now called Concession 3. This farm had been bought from the Indians around 1808

In 1884 he married Elizabeth Rutherford Hood daughter of Walter and Robina Robertson Hood who lived on the township line between Seneca and Ancaster Townships. They lived in a log house until the present brick house was built in 1895. They had five children Lizzie who died at the age of 23 Walter Laura Mrs Harry McMorran, Robina Mrs John E Parker) and Claire (Mrs Harcourt Kern)

Walter who married Margaret McClung of North Cayuga farmed his father's place until his death in 1954. Shortly afterwards the farm was sold to Mr and Mrs Norman Hyslop, who have this past year, sold it

1867 THE WICHER FARM — 1967

The Whicher family has resided on the farm they still occupy for over 100 years.

Dr Whicher married Matilda Fairclough in 1808 in England In 1830 they came to Canada with their family when John was four years old They settled on the land then a bush comprising 50 acres situated 1 mile north of Caledonia on the west side of what is now Highway No 6 The land was cleared and a 1 storey brick house was erected Dr Whicher tended the sick until his death in 1865 His wife died in 1866

John Whicher married Margaret Wilhelmina Walker in 1852 She died in 1867 leaving a family of four children - Maxwell Jessie Ruth Emma Martha and Margaret Wilhelmina Later he married Lucretia Smuck They had two children Lulu and James Smuck Whicher During that time an upper storey was put on the house also of brick

John Whicher died in 1911 and his wife in 1912 leaving James Whicher who had married Mary Ellen Kelly to carry on the farm They had five children John Addison Florence Wilhelmina Mrs Walter Nelles Mary Isabella James Arnold and Kenneth Clayton

Jas Whicher passed away in 1947 and his wife had predeceased in 1918

The farm home is now occupied by Mary Whicher

THE WILSON AND HAMILTON FAMILIES
MILLFIELD HOUSE

In 1859 Mr Wilson and Mr Craig who had built a furniture factory at Sims Locks two years before finished building a two storey house 66 x 30 with six rooms on each floor The greater part of the upstairs, 18 x 66 was used for furniture display

In 1868 Mr Wilson returned to Kilmarnock Scotland and married Jessie Hamilton They made their home in the eastern half of Millfield House they improved their surroundings and had artistic landscaping with well kept walks fences and beautiful flowers They had an undertaking business also.

After 1883 the dam at Sims Locks was washed out and the furniture business ruined Mr Wilson died two weeks later from pneumonia which

he contracted as a result of becoming drenched in the icy waters of the Grand, trying to save his tools.

The undertaking business was sold to Mr Nathaniel Wickett of York, after Mr Wilson's death.

Mrs Wilson's nephew Robert Aitken Hamilton came to Midland to help her settle the estate. Shortly afterwards he and his bride came to live at Midland House to be company for Mrs Wilson. Mr and Mrs Hamilton had four sons and one daughter. His son Robert Hamilton purchased the Spittal farm where Carl Hunt and family now reside. Another son Jack Hamilton who is much interested in history lives in Regina and the daughter Jessie Murdoch lives in Toronto.

THE WHALEY FAMILY

Samuel and Hannah Whaley came to Canada from Suffolk England in the year 1847. They settled on land in Seneca Township paying £1 pounds per acre and received the Crown deed for this land.

In 1848 Samuel Whaley deeded this land to his son, William who married Anna Martin.

Nine children were born of this marriage. When William died in 1870 his son William became the owner of the farm which remained in the Whaley family until 1943. Elaine Thompson and family live on the farm at present.

In 1877 William married Mary Hammond and they were parents of nine children — Ernest [illegible] Mrs E Carver, Martin, Norman, Joseph, Maude, Mrs H Howden, Franklin, Wilbert and Elwood.

Three of this family — Norman, Joseph and Mrs Carver — reside locally at the present time.

Also residents of the vicinity are Bruce, son of Martin Whaley; Norma (Mrs Mervin), daughter of Norman Whaley; Maynard, son of Norman Whaley; Shirley, Mrs Jack Young, daughter of Joseph Whaley. Bruce Whaley is a member of the Township Council.

THE YOUNG FAMILY - NELLES TRACT

In 1936 the Crown granted 1088 acres to William Nelles. He divided the land among his family: Peter Bal, John Adolphus and Margaret.

In 1867 Peter B Nelles sold 121 acres to John Tracy who sold it in 1868 to Alexander Kinnear who in turn sold the farm to Michael Harcourt in 1869.

In 1871 Michael and Elizabeth Harcourt sold the farm to Alexander Young, son of Robert Young and Mary [illegible] Nelles. Alexander Young was a descendant of Adam Young of Young Tract.

In 1870 Alexander Young married Margaret Weir and they had six children. Their son Robert Alexander remained on the farm. In 1905 he married Emily Estella Stewart of Weir and they had three sons and two daughters — Frank A, Stewart A, Margaret E, Mrs John Flemming, Lillian E (Mrs Ross Stephens) and John Robert.

John R took the farm over after his father passed away in 1963.

1867 THE YOUNG FARM, YOUNG TRACT — 1967

The history of the Century Farm of Howard Young has its origin dating back to Adam Young a United Empire Loyalist who during the War of American Independence gave up his lands and property in New York State. He moved to Canada with his three sons to settle along the Grand River in Haldimand County.

Henry Young one of Adam's sons fought with Joseph Brant in the war of 1783, and it was because of this that he was given a tract of land which is now known as the Young Tract, Seneca.

Henry gave his son William whose wife's maiden name was Detlew a section of this Young Tract along the Second Line Seneca of approximately 600 acres. William said that fate had a grudge against him and took it out on sons-in-law. He gave to his only son Robert the first choice of 100 acres of the above property. The remaining 500 acres be divided among his sons-in-law. Robert who married Margaret Hoshal then settled and farmed Lot 6 Concession 2 Seneca. Robert Young had four daughters and one son Robert who married Ella Barron and carried on farming on this Century farm. He had three children — Archie Catherine and Howard.

Howard Young the present owner of this farm married Peggy Smith and has six children. Gary Robert Danny Archie Heather and Roger.

THE YOUNG FARM — LOT 24 RIVER RANGE

In 1828 Peter Young who was a descendant of Adam Young son of Daniel and Elizabeth of Ancaster and was married to Hannah Burrows came to Lot 24 River Range in Seneca. The land must have been purchased from the Indians because there was an Indian burying ground along the lane back of the Wilson property to the river. Peter died in 1846 and Hannah in 1852. Their daughter Barbara married David Young Sr. Their son David P. Young who married Elizabeth Sarah Hooten in 1878 took over the farm and David Young Sr. reserved 3 acres across the road where he built a house. Ralph and Bertie Young Love reside there now. Harvey D. Young whose first wife was Bess Moore took over the farm when David P. Young died in 1919 and the greater part of Lot 24 River Range, still remains in the Young name.

Harvey Young's brother Harry and his wife the former Mary Ethelwyn Martindale who will celebrate their Diamond Wedding in this Centennial year bought the farm in 1911 in the Nelles Tract where his son Jack Young resides at present day. Three sisters Nellie Mrs. Arthur Baird Gertie Mrs. Rob Patterson and Bessie Mrs. Percy Baker all lived on farms in Seneca Township. In the last 20 years there have been several homes built on Lot 24, River Range.

Ice on the former Highway 54 — The Grand River in flood

The Grand River

By Mrs. Ed Baker and Mrs. J. H. Nelles

For years, the Grand River has been a great attraction

Above the Caledonia dam there is a large sheet of water that is most suitable for boating. On Sundays especially there are many motor boats on the river and many water skiers performing on a most picturesque setting. The Caledonia Rowing Club and the Hamilton Water Ski Club both are on either side of Edgar McKay's park which was opened in 1956. Percy Lahaie's park, which has been there for many years, can accommodate large crowds. It has been the scene of many boating and water skiing competitions with competitors from [illegible]. The Caledonia Gardens water skiers have put on demonstrations here. Mr. Percy Wagner, owner of the former Tom Atkinson farm, was instrumental in introducing water skiing.

Beyond the boundary line in Brant Co. is the Hamilton Hunt Club of which several Seneca farmers are members.

Below Caledonia a row boat or canoe is a safer means of travel as the river has many islands and is shallow in spots but many people come to fish. As in most fishing spots there are fewer fish caught but people still seek the quietude of the open spaces for relaxation.

Cook's Point by the river near Ross Nelles' farm was once an attractive park. Now the Grand York Sports Club possesses it and many have summer cabins there. Just below Cook's Point the Lavarian Hunt and Angling Club have their park where they have built a clubhouse.

At York Mr. Henry's Park with pop stand was a well patronized park. At Young's Point where Mr. Ralph Love resides there was once a roadside stand but there are still some boats to rent. The older citizens remember the picnics which were held on Thompson's Island.

For a scenic drive a trip along the Grand River with its ever changing beauty, is very enjoyable.

In the past, in winter, they crossed the river on the ice but this has not been possible many times since. Before the time of cars they drove on the frozen river when the road was blocked with snow. Hockey games

and skating were enjoyed on the river especially above the dam where there is less current

Before the advent of gas and electric refrigerators the farmers had ice cutting bees and stored the ice in sawdust in ice houses for summer refrigeration

Floods caused by the spring thaw resulting in the breaking up of ice in the Grand River or any other reason found the residents along the river with mixed emotions.

Much destruction was feared and relieved [illegible] occur in the 1880's when the dam at Niles Falls was washed out. With this disaster many businesses were forced to cease operation

Out of the storied past comes this tale related by Jack Hamilton of this and H. Hamilton's experience of losing one of the better rackets resulting from the sale of Mr. Wilson's undertaking business would make good copy to capture a fund. But at the time of launching his mother appeared on the scene and with an axe reduced the number of craft to [illegible] this averting a possible tragedy. To quote Mr. Hamilton, I can recall that I received that which my mother thought as punishment today a thrashing might have rewarded them and me for our inventiveness.

Some dairy farmers during floods had to transport the milk by team and wagon to the nearest passable point at Abbey Road and it was taken to meet Andy Smyth who travelled extra miles along County Road No. 18 to pick up the supply.

Orland Phipps who operated a dairy at his farm from which he supplied Lansdowne residents with milk was obliged to hitch two teams of horses to a wagon to draw the milk along the Young Road where at Road No. 18, it was loaded on to a truck

Flash floods were the most worrisome. Members of many families had anxious experiences. To relate a couple. Harry Thompson's father-in-law Fred was nearly swept away when returning to his home by team and wagon from a neighbouring farm. Mr. and Mrs. Hayes [illegible] on their way to a church club meeting became stranded after turning in deep water [illegible] a flash flood and abandoning their car waded with great difficulty and fear to a farmhouse

In the flash flood about 1918 Tom Wilson lost many head of cattle by drowning in their barn on the flats near Indiana

Percy Baker not once found it necessary at times to use a row boat to get back and forth from house to barn but on some occasions stood knee deep in water to milk the cows stepping the milk over the flowing waters. This was a case of water being rowed rather than cows being watered."

With the relocating of Highway No. 54 in 1951 much [illegible] to keep at a safe distance from the [illegible] of the old cottage built by Mr. Henry at Niles Falls now owned by Jacob Hoag have as recently as 1960 been surrounded by water or cut off by deposits of ice cakes.

What does the future hold for the Grand River? There is the Grand River Conservation Authority with James N. Allen of Waterloo as chairman. Will it one day be blocked by dams with locks along the banks for the passage of pleasure craft. Will its banks be lined with park areas as the Niagara River is? Time will tell.

Changing Times In Seneca Township

By Robin Kerr

1830—Building canals locks dams on river done by men and oxen saw mills, flour mills, distilleries, boats, influx of labour

1832—Land for sale.

1840 New settlers clearing building cradling grain Plank road

1850—Framing barns spinning raising building railroads by horse and manpower reapers for grain and hand binding of grain churches

1860—Horses replacing oxen population 4980 , livestock fence rails fields 10 acres square; organs in the parlor.

1870—Grain binder more horses hay mowers and rakes tea meetings railways completed and changed to standard gauge which opened up all of North America to trade population static threshing machines by horsepower

1880—Grain binders farms mostly cleared less demand for labor young men began to leave industry along river declining brick houses

1890—More horses more grain livestock Durham cows cheese factories.

1900—Alfalfa hay more cows cream separators basement barns rebuilt from original frame with heated cribbers windmills steam tractors for threshing butter factories bicycles boys going west on Harvest Excursions — some to stay

1910—Gasoline engines hay press natural gas butter factories whole milk to Hamilton from River Road and Plank Road established statute labour county roads Provincial Highway No 6 telephones rural mail.

1915 Blowers on threshing machines and self feeders silos for corn chick incubators and small brooder houses stook threshing silo carriers, automobiles. First World War, 1914-1918

1920—Peace tractors private threshing machines more of everything boom times more taxes bigger farms and mortgages more debt more debt automobiles public dancing progressive euchre gasoline tractors for threshing everyone an optimist bad days behind.

1927—Power line.

1929—Stock market crash.

1930—Depression out word with new meaning new government Federal aid moratorium of mortgages unpaid taxes over $2000 in one year relief work set up by Council 2 days a week at 40c per hour for married men rivers choking up no explanation people didn't buy — so no one could sell, an time adjustment to conditions

1940 War time again 1939-45 boom times tractors on every farm combines self propelled combines wheat $2.00 per bushel pick-up balers hydraulic lifts milking machines running water inside plumbing new furniture 3 provincial highways all paved - 6 '56 and 34 automobile in every garage second mortgages two horses disappearing township roads closest to every gate mortgages paid off municipal debt in 1945 more cows bucket cows to pipe cool grading station on every country store high school district township school boards, high school buses chickens hatched in large hatcheries with local brooder houses on farms, average flock 100 - 300

950—More milk shippers whole milk and powdered milk factories, more pigs central school 1957, public school buses, trucks on farms, television. County Centennial, 1950

960—Many farmers work in industry as well as farm, large poultry units, most farmers buy eggs and many buy milk stable cleaners diesel tractors, hydraulic tractors and implements, practically all children go to school for 12 years, large pig barns on family farm, new type of barn — some insulated and built by contract, no more changing of work by neighbours, large farm holdings, credit buying, bigger mortgages, county debt $6,000,000 Zoning by-law, building by-laws. Population 2300

967—Canada Centennial.

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"THE NEXT CENTURY"

The world grows smaller every day -
But Canada grows bigger as each one of us holds out the hand of
Friendship and understanding
To our neighbour
And to the new-comers.

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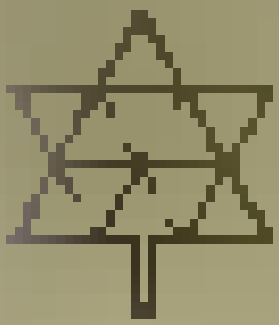
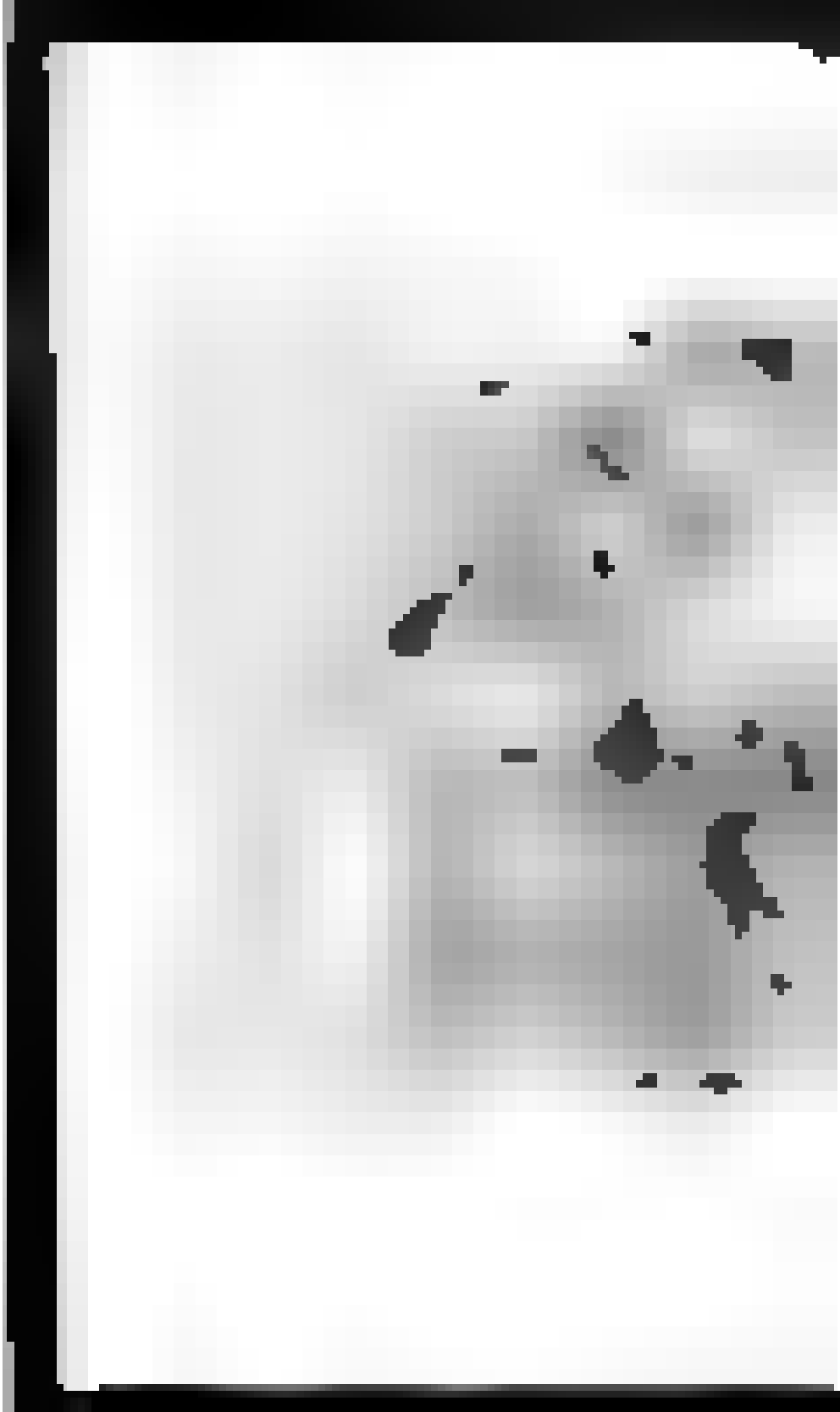
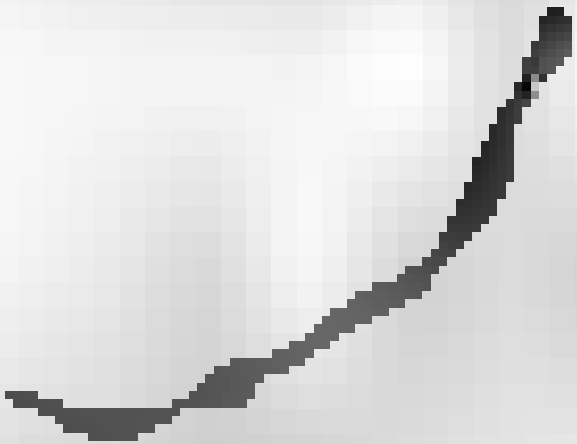
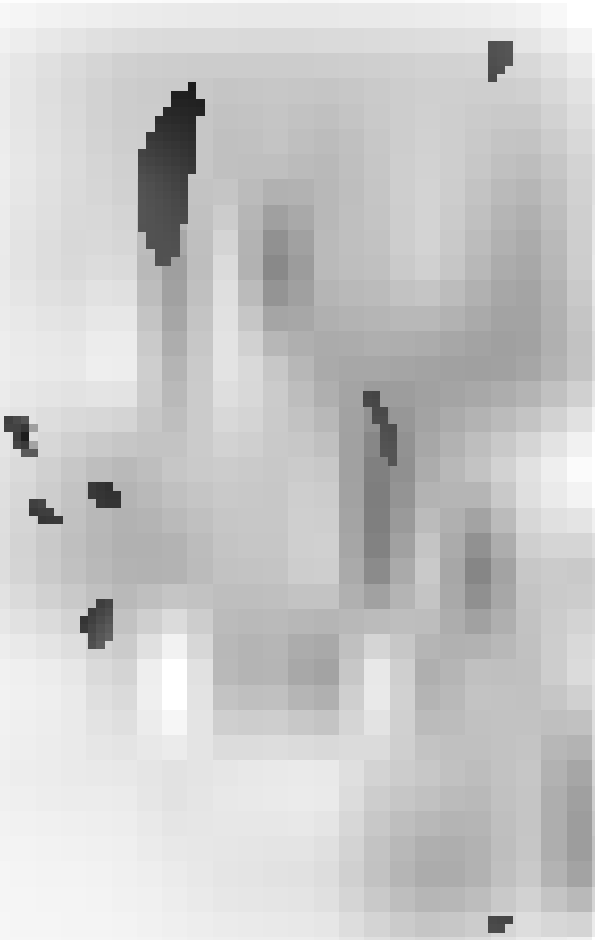
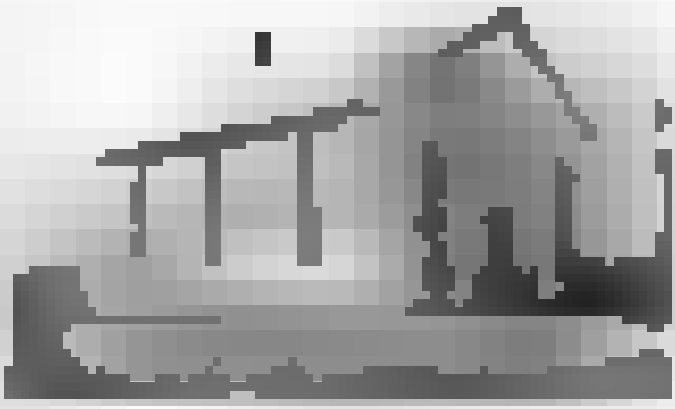
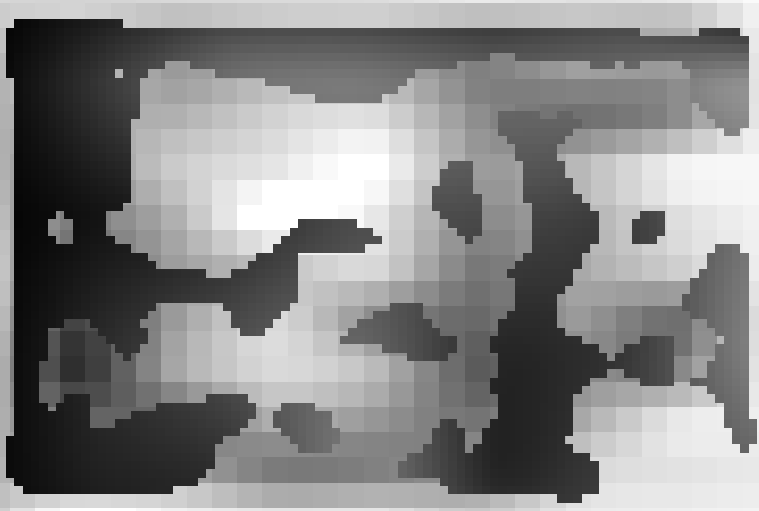
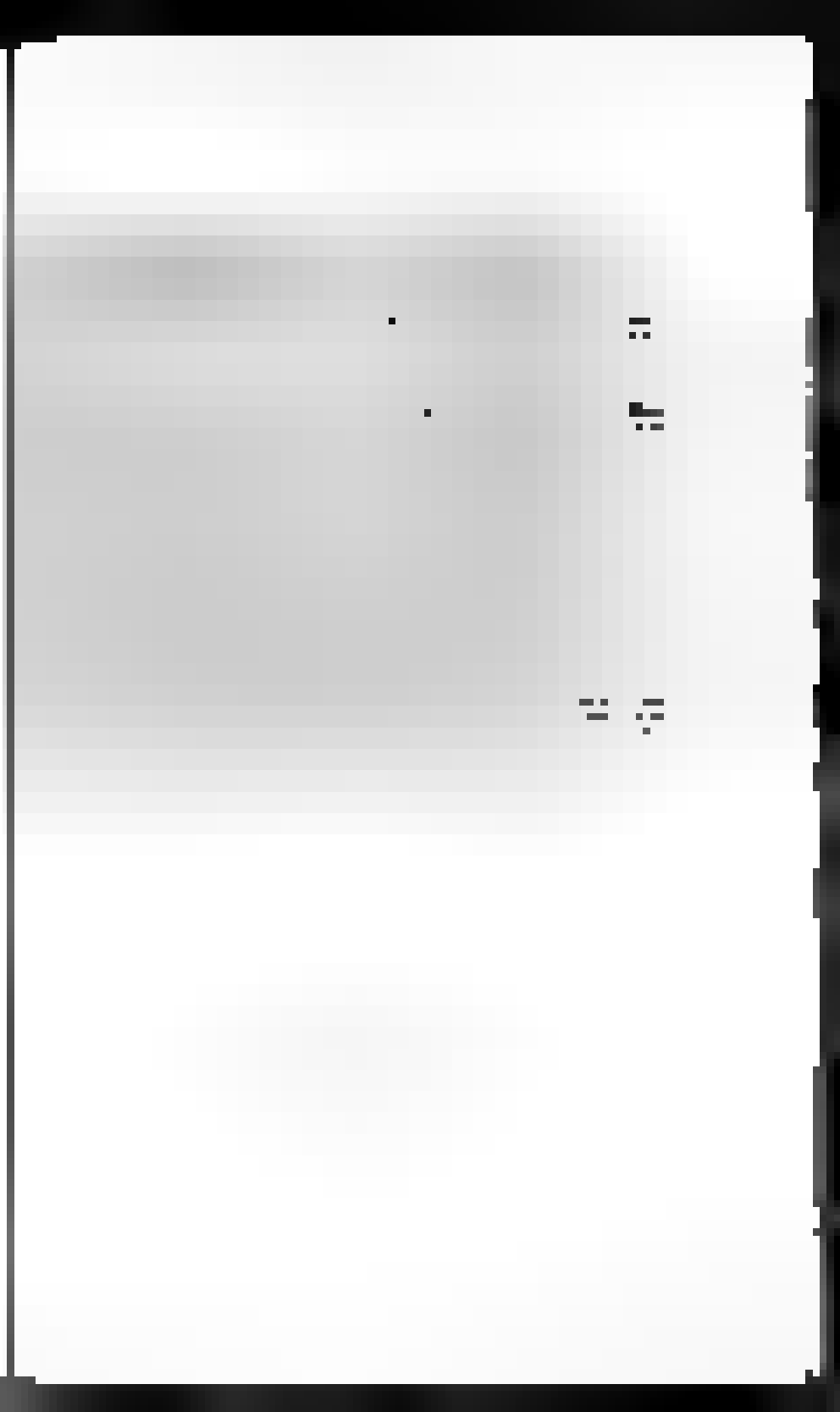
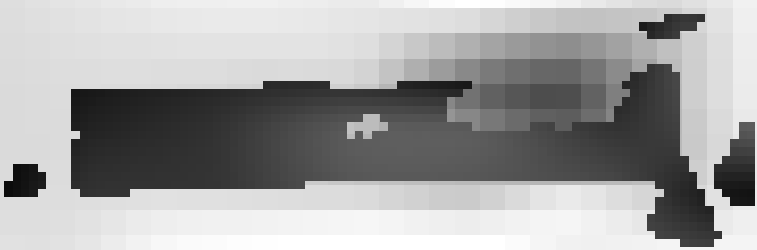
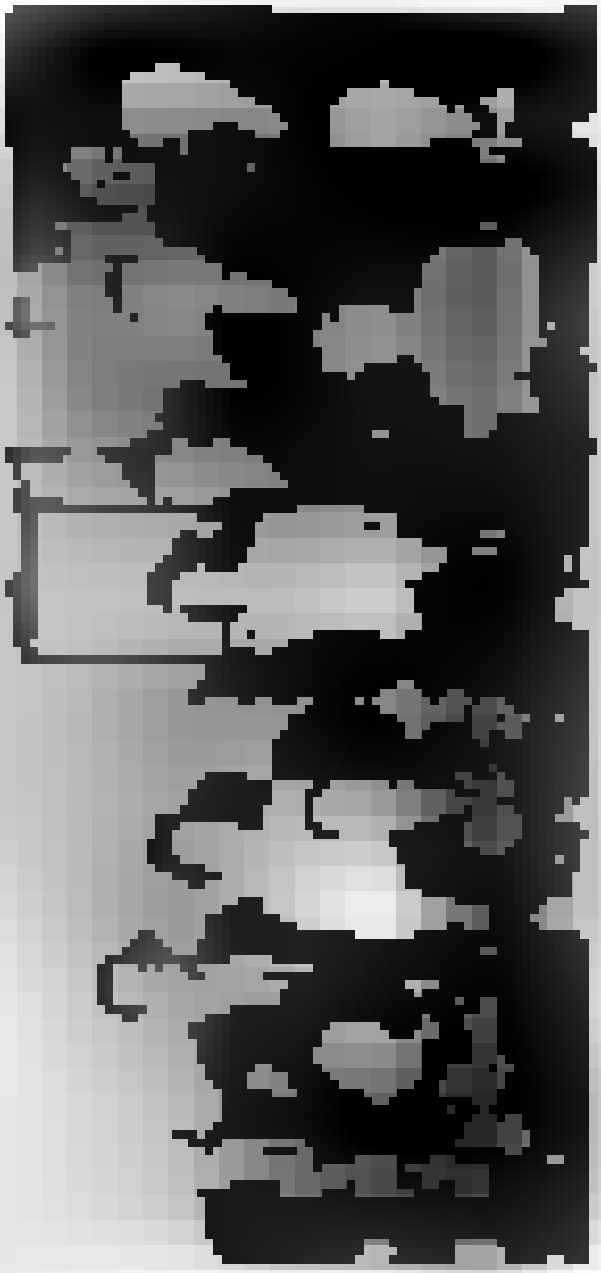
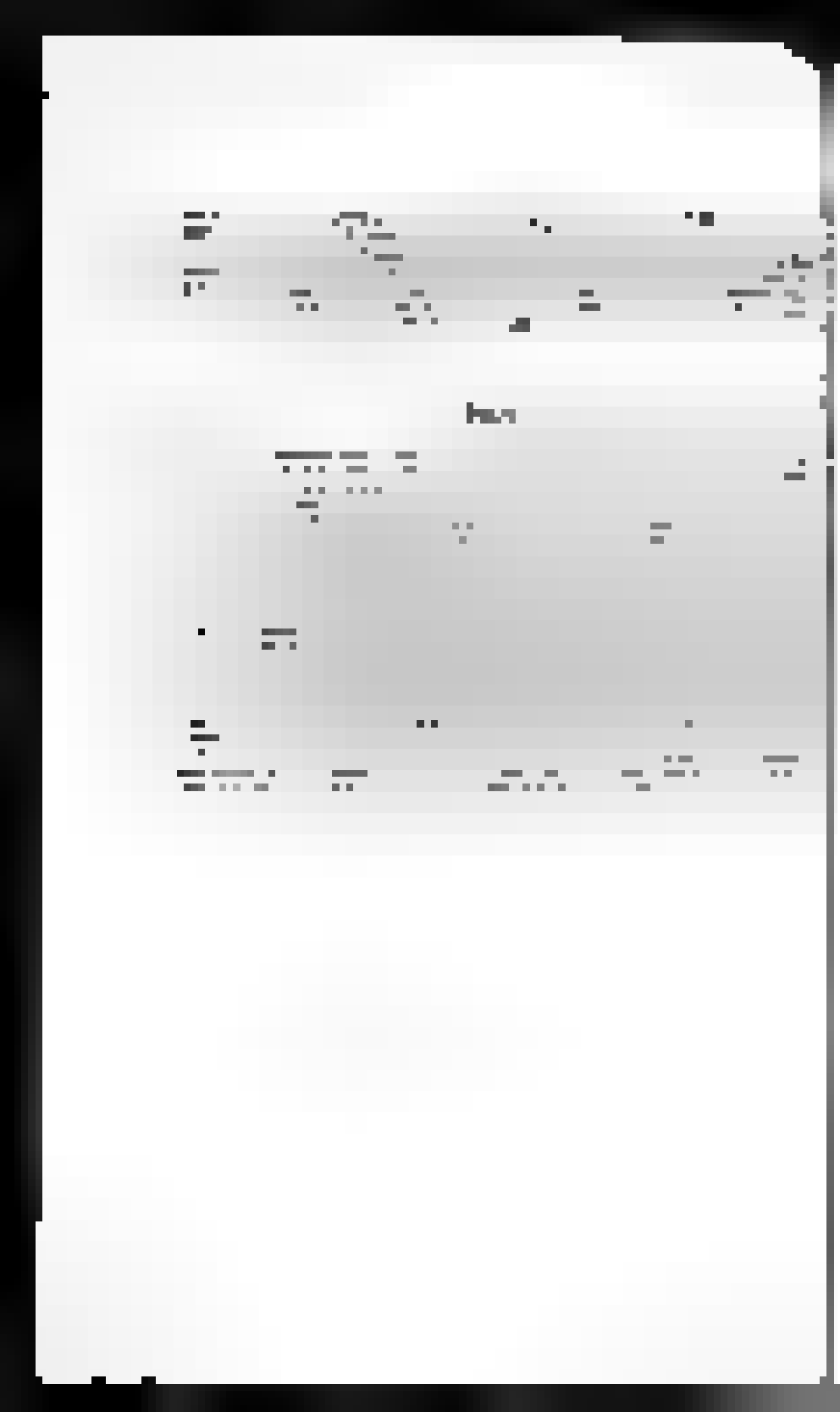
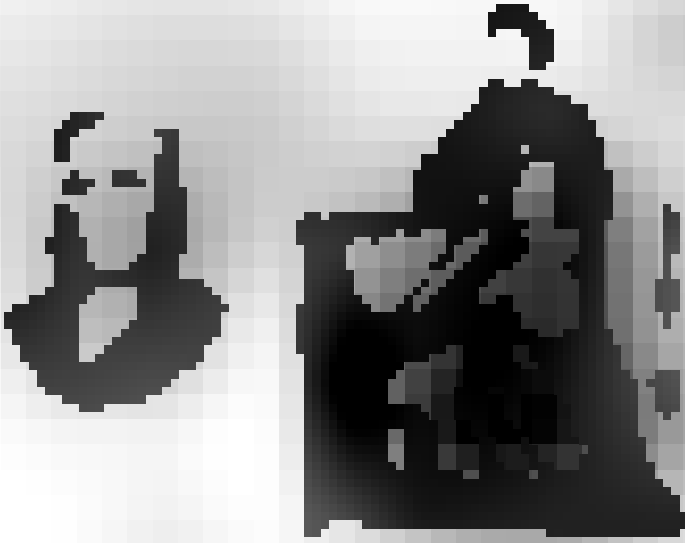
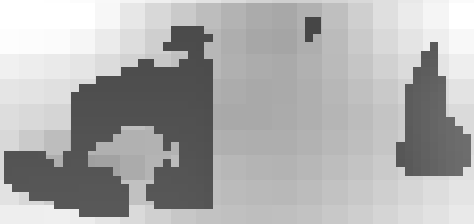
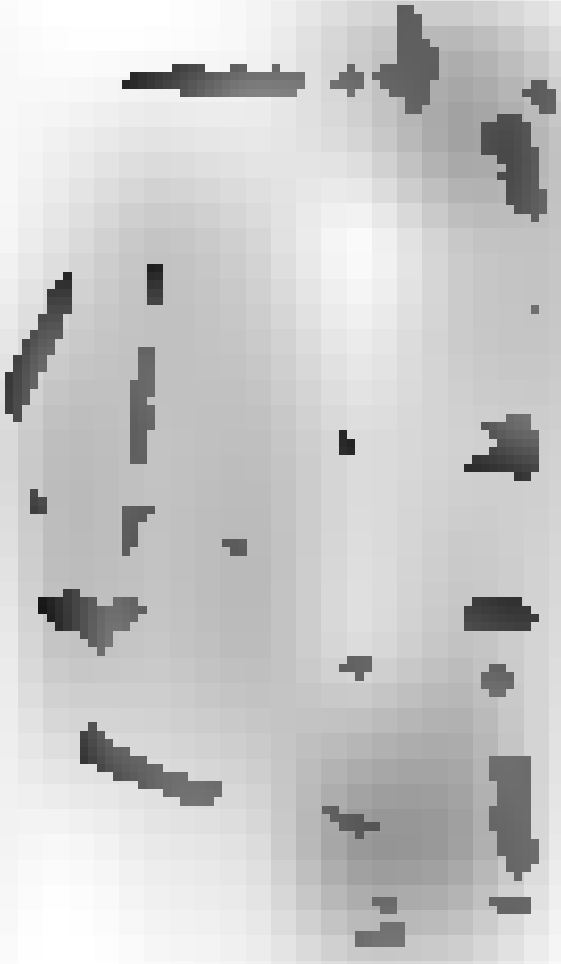
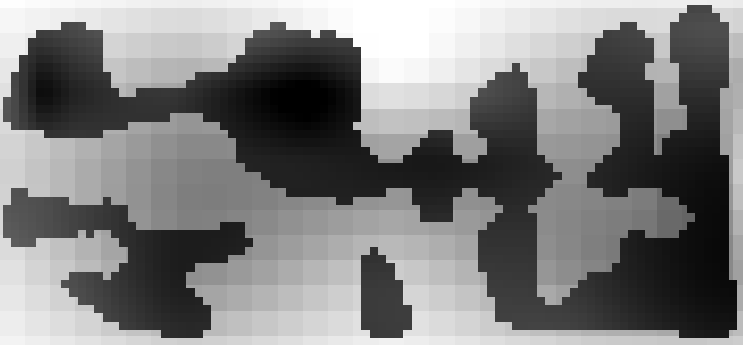
NOTE —The poem "Heritage" on page 64 was written by C Mona Whitwell.

SENECA



1867-1967